

HIMMAT

WEEKLY 35p

VOL 9 NO 47

ASIA'S VOICE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21 1973

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FRIENDSHIP WILL

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Indira Gandhi



Dinesh Singh



S.D. Sharma



L.N. Mishra

NEW DELHI, September
THE AICC, which began
day session here today
the Indo-Pakistani agree
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New light from Laos

Two decades of war in Laos came to an end last week. In Vientiane, where the boom of guns was once heard, champagne glasses clinked as the peace protocol was signed between the Government of Vientiane and the Communist Pathet Lao forces. Of the three war-ravaged nations of Indo-China, the circumstances in Laos are the most favourable for peace.

Laos is also fortunate in the leadership of its Prime Minister, Prince Souvanna Phouma, who commands the friendship and support of both the United States and of India — a rare feat.

India has supported the Laotian Prime Minister for three reasons. First, his Government has always respected India as the Chairman of the International Control Commission (ICC).

Secondly, Souvanna Phouma's internal policy has been amazingly tolerant. Although the Pathet Lao left the coalition in 1963, Souvanna Phouma kept their portfolios vacant in the event of their return. Furthermore, he permitted the functioning of a Pathet Lao mission in his capital and kept the channels of communication open even at the height of the war and in spite of pressures to have the mission shut. The Prince's aim was to wean the Pathet Lao away from Hanoi and other foreign powers and to encourage it to be an indigenous force with access to the levers of power.

Thirdly, Souvanna Phouma managed to establish a personal equation first with Prime Minister Nehru and later with his daughter. After he survived the coup attempt last month, Souvanna Phouma received a heartfelt message from Mrs Gandhi which said, "I am greatly relieved to learn that you are safe. I wish you many years of service to your country and your people so that you can lead them to the cherished goal of a united, peaceful and prosperous Laos. With warm personal regards..."

The friendship between the two Premiers was strengthened by Souvanna Phouma's visit to Delhi last January. If Indo-Laotian friendship is better than ever

before, it is in no small measure due to the sensitive handling of relations by the Laotian Ambassador in New Delhi, Mr T. Chantharasy.

On the signing of the peace agreement, New Delhi sent a message to Laos last week that may well prick Hanoi which has been meddling in Laotian affairs. The statement said that India firmly believed in and supported the "independence, neutrality, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos". Hanoi is close to Moscow and, in supporting Laos, India is supporting not only the independence of Laos from Hanoi, but in a way asserting her own independence of Moscow.

The peace agreement brings to birth a national coalition for the third time and one hopes this time it will be lasting.

One might ask: "Is there any chance of the rightists in Laos opposing the present agreement?" They tried to, four weeks before the signing, and failed in their coup attempt. The generals in Laos who crushed it were loyal to the Premier and it is unlikely that the opponents of the pact will raise their heads for some time.

Newspapers have reported that Souvanna Phouma is retiring in a couple of years and that Prince Souphanouvong will be Prime Minister. This is incorrect. Who will succeed Souvanna Phouma will depend on the shape of the National Assembly after the general elections, the date of which is yet to be fixed. Souvanna Phouma may also choose his own time to retire.

Laos could be the beacon of hope to other states of Indo-China. The war was not of Laos' choosing and in a way neither will the peace be. Until the guns are silent in Vietnam and Cambodia, Hanoi will continue its pressure for transit facilities through Laos. Will the Pathet Lao be patriotic enough to stand up to Hanoi? India may have a part in cooling down Hanoi's ambition.

The gap is so small!

CONFUSION and anxiety reign in the ranks of "left adventurists and right reactionaries" within the Congress. The suspension of Mr Dinesh Singh has hit them like a bombshell.

Here is an "interview" with a prominent Congress member, a "left-adventurist" by reputation, who has offered to recant his sins and is genuinely sorry for having strayed from the party path.

Q — Are you happy with the outcome of the AICC session?

A — Of course I am. Seldom in the long and illustrious history of the Congress has there been such a useful session. And to speak of me personally, I am glad I was able to escape the axe this time.

Q — You mean you are afraid of a possible expulsion from the party?

A — You can say that again! Can you imagine the shiver that ran through my spine every time Mrs Gandhi or Dr Sharma looked at me? I could bear it no longer. Had the session lasted another two days I would have

become a nervous wreck.

Q — You were once quoted as saying that the Central Government had utterly failed to tackle the problem of black money...

A — Ugh! My misguided and ignorant old self might have said such stupid things!

Q — A few months ago did you not raise a hue and cry about the gap between the Congress party's socialist resolutions and its practice?

A — Well, there might have been a gap at times. But now it has become so small that it is hardly noticeable.

Q — You are no longer against the wheat takeover?

A — What do you mean by saying "no longer"? I have always supported the progressive reforms of the Congress.

Q — What do you propose to do in the future?

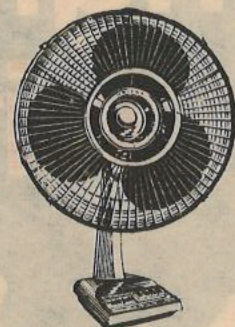
A — I promise to remain a loyal and dedicated Congressman for the rest of my life. May the Congress leadership have mercy on me!

ORIENT

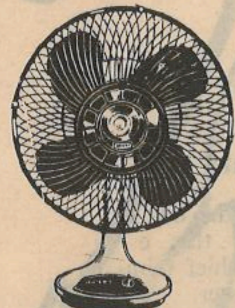
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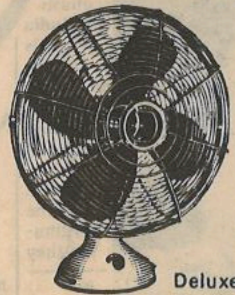
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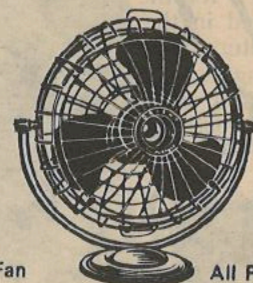
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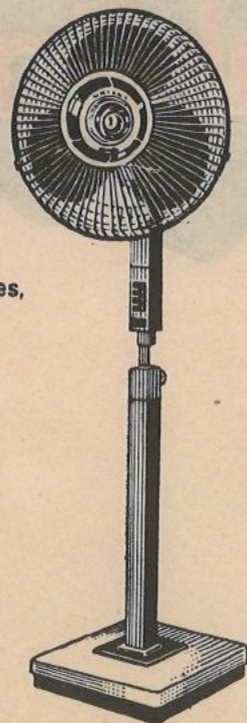
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Briefly Speaking.....

We go on fancying that each man is thinking of us, but he is not; he is like us: he is thinking of himself.

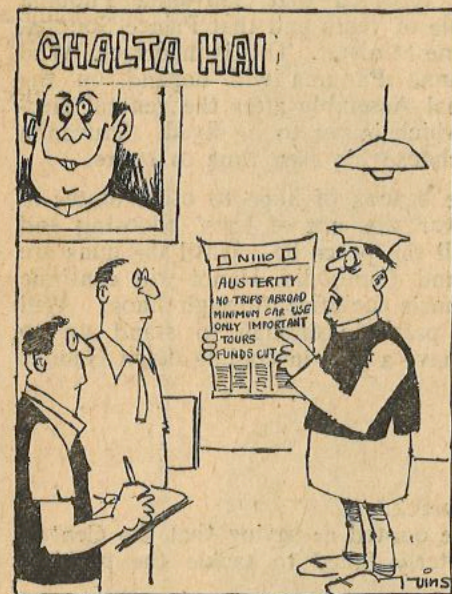
CHARLES READE,
1814-1884

Criticism is an art

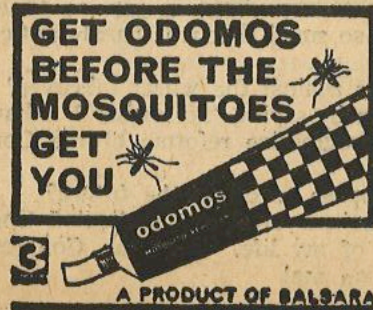
ON the same day, September 14, two Indians chose to comment on two different super powers. The reader can contrast for himself the difference in the tone of the comments.

Mr George Fernandes, Chairman of the Socialist Party, denouncing the alleged assassination of President Allende of Chile said, "No matter what explanations are sought to be given by the US Government, there will be few in the world who will fail to see in this crime, the hidden hand of American economic imperialism."

Mr Jayaprakash Narayan and five others, in a signed statement, express-



"The very purpose of becoming a Minister has been defeated..."



ed solidarity with Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov. They said, "While normally we should refrain from commenting on the internal affairs of a country, there are occasions when solidarity of the human spirit, and community of intellect, demand clear expression of views.

"Such an occasion has arisen when the slander campaign against Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Andrei Sakharov in the Soviet Union threatens to end in a grim tragedy."

Performance counts

MR I. K. GUJRAL, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, has called for closer co-operation between publicity media men and public sector enterprises to improve the public sector's image. Birbal feels, however, that the brilliance of the best media men cannot dim the glare of the figures on balance sheets. He believes that it is not publicity but performance that counts, as the following table indicates:

Performance of the Public Sector:
(1972-73)

	Profit or loss in lakhs
Heavy Engineering	Rs -1454
Mining & Allied Machinery	Rs -130
Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels	Rs -96
Triveni Structures	Rs -53
Engineering Projects	Rs +1
Hindustan Machine Tools	Rs +76
Tungabhadra Steel	Rs +84
Heavy Electricals	Rs +1235

(moratorium on repayments of loans and interest)

Of the 12 major heavy industries, only four have shown marginal profits.

Marks and merit

At last a competent body has exploded the myth that high marks secured in examinations are an indication of ability. Prospective employers and parents-in-law please note.

The University Grants Commis-

sion (UGC), in a 20-page report, says that a statistical analysis of some typical university papers shows that a candidate who gets 41 per cent marks may well have deserved above 46 per cent or below 36 per cent. This is because the present marking system assumes the existence of an "ideal" examiner. The actual examiner, who is subject to human frailties, can, at best, make a rough estimate of the true mark. The solution, suggested by the UGC is the adoption of the grading system of five grades: outstanding, very good, good, fair and poor.

Outwitting hunger

SHORTAGES are a fact of life in Bombay. It is easier to tick off the commodities that are not in short supply. However, one commodity definitely not in short supply is ingenuity. This the Bombayman pits against fate, and the follies of the Government.

The population of this city has risen in the last 2½ years to seven million. In the same period the number of ration card holders has risen to 8.3 million. This phenomenon has become manifest since October 1972. The food situation really started to deteriorate after September 1972.

Ration cards are being pawned at moneylenders' — 42 ration cards have been seized from a Colaba moneylender and 41 from a Chembur grocer!

A gem of a man

UNDER Mrs Bandaranaike's five year plan, gem exports were expected to fetch Rs 50 million in foreign exchange by 1977. But the Gem Corporation under its dynamic Chairman, T. G. Puchi Appuhamy, reached the target in only 17 months.

In May this year, Appuhamy revised the target to Rs 100 million by the end of the year. As an incentive to unhoard hidden wealth, the Government declared a two month amnesty on August 1. By the end of August, the Gem Corporation had reached its target of Rs 100 million.

If more Government Corporations had men like Appuhamy at the head, Sri Lanka's chronic balance of payments deficit would be solved quickly. It is no secret that earlier, most gems were smuggled out of the country depriving the Government of valuable foreign exchange.

Birbal

HIMMAT, September 21, 1973

Crevices in the Congress

-rumblings from within

THE greatest threat to the Congress is from within. The Opposition, even if it gangs up, poses no threat to Mrs Gandhi.

The danger does not come from any move by her partymen to dislodge her, because she is firmly in the saddle. It is the constant in-fighting in the party and its mistaken economic policies that have dimmed the Congress image. There seems to be no sign of a reversal of these trends.

At the recent All India Congress Committee (AICC) session held in Delhi, Mrs Gandhi was clear on political issues. But on the economic front she and her party continued to be disappointing.

She vociferously attacked the communal and separatist forces in the country. The revival of the Muslim League has worried her — particularly with the elections in UP around the corner. Requesting the people to view problems in a wider perspective, she pleaded for an end to strikes for the time being as the country is passing through difficult straits.

With serious shortages and price rises causing untold suffering to our people, the AICC session should have been a time for reviewing the performance of the Congress. Unfort-

unately it never rose above bandying cliches.

Credit must be given to Mrs Gandhi for having been firm in the postponement of the rice takeover. But she had to repeat that the Government was wedded to the Party's 1969 resolution of grain takeover. She has not shown the courage to

by Neerja Chowdhury

make a clear break with economic policies that have not produced the goods although the Congress itself admitted that the wheat takeover was not a roaring success. The Government just does not have the machinery to make it work. Wheat is grown only in some states of India, while rice is grown in almost every state.

There was no clear indication given at the AICC meeting whether the Government would continue to manage the wholesale wheat trade, or let private traders re-enter the picture.

Having left the decision of rice take-over to the different states, only Assam and Kerala opted for it. Wiser counsels have prevailed with the Mysore and Punjab Chief Ministers who had earlier championed the cause of rice takeover at the meeting.

Mrs Gandhi's statement on the phasing out of the rice takeover was meant partly to placate leftist opinion in the party. Ironically, the severest critics in the party of the mess made

by the Government's economic policies are the ones who have been the greatest champions of the wheat takeover and continue to chant the slogan of rice trade takeover.

The moderates and the rightists inside the Congress are also to blame for their failure to speak up forthrightly on economic issues. The heterogeneous character of the Congress could be an asset. Having ultra-leftists, moderates and rightists, while it does pose some disadvantages, could lead to every issue being judged on its merit in a pragmatic fashion rather than with an ideologically jaundiced eye. The tragedy of the Congress is that it is becoming a party of sycophants who say what they are expected to say.

This was another notable feature of the AICC. Criticism got muted. Mrs Gandhi's sharp reaction to criticism does not speak very well for her. If criticism is ill-intentioned, it should be ignored. If not, then it should be duly considered.

Mr Krishna Kant, Congress MP, had, in an open letter to the Congress President, demanded a discussion on how to free the party of black money politics. He had written, "With black money as the major source of finance for political parties, careerists and opportunists manipulate the parties. Men of principle and integrity tend to get eliminated." He went on, "We are advising the people to adopt harder options to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

SO THEY SAY

I would still be for a lessening of tensions between East and West in the interest of securing peace even if Stalin were still the first man of the Soviet Union.

WILLY BRANDT
West German Chancellor

Confining detente within the boundaries of the industrialised world will not bring international peace.

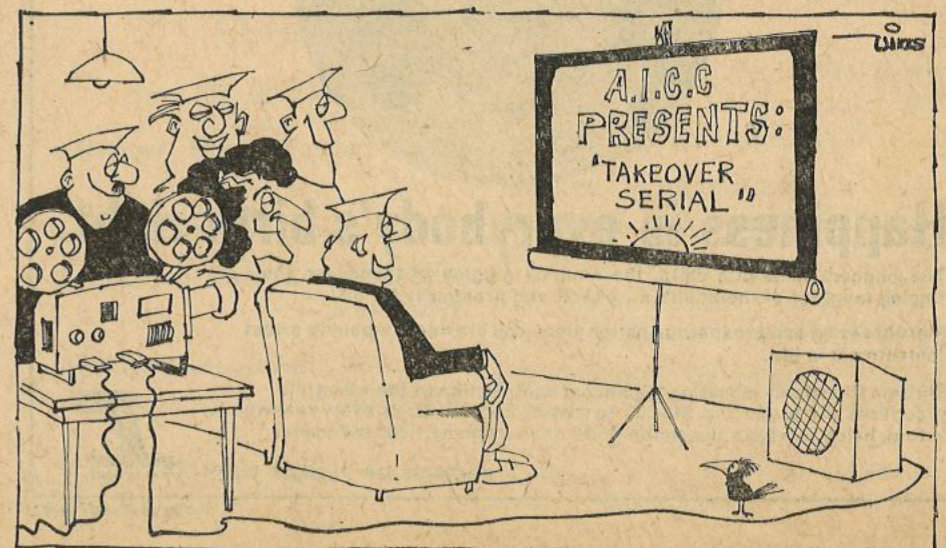
HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE,
Algerian President

A young flash still needs a lot of work to become a big (tennis) star.

NIKKI PILIC,
Czechoslovakian tennis star

We shall forfeit all our claims to be champions of oppressed people everywhere, if, nearer home, we fail to show the same concern for weaker sections in our society.

V. V. GIRI,
President of India



"I can never get tired of these films."

HIMMAT, September 21, 1973

Crevice in the Congress — from page 5

fight price rise and hoarding and not to succumb to softer options by purchasing in the black market. But are we, as a political party, prepared to adopt harder options for running the political party without black money?"

Mr Krishna Kant's letter had created ripples of interest in the country and indeed, expectancy.

But at the AICC, only cautious references were made to black money. The Government will never deal with black-marketeers unless it frontally tackles the question of black money used for election funds.

Dinesh Singh's expulsion, just before the AICC session was held, successfully toned down criticism. Mr Dinesh Singh is alleged to have criticised the wheat takeover. Others in the party have made stronger statements in the past and no action has been taken against them. A more likely reason for Dinesh Singh's downfall is the statements he made outside India. He doubted the ability of the present Government to survive. Mrs Gandhi is known to be particularly sensitive to criticisms made outside the country.

The Dinesh Singh episode also reduced to a murmur any uproar that might have been created when the PM announced that the doors of the

Congress are open to any members of the Opposition who share the objectives of the party.

Congress (O) leader Kamaraj comes under this category. The other possibilities are former Mysore Chief Minister Veerendra Patil, former Gujarat CM Hitendra Desai, Sanjiva Reddy, and Dr Ram Subhag Singh, former Union Railway Minister.

In-fighting weakens Congress

The recent factionalism in the Congress party has been caused more by personal ambition and personality clashes than by ideological differences. There has been constant jockeying to be in a more advantageous position vis-a-vis the Prime Minister. The result is the politics of one-upmanship. The rivalry between the veteran Congressmen and those who entered the fray in the post-1969 period has filtered down to the state level. The price paid for this is the paralysis in administration.

Today three states — UP, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa — are under President's rule. In Bihar and Gujarat, the Congress won with a landslide majority in the 1971 elections. In Gujarat the party had won 143

out of 168 assembly seats but the administration came to a grinding halt because of factional clashes. The Oza Ministry was toppled earlier this year by fellow Congressmen.

The Kedar Pande Ministry in Bihar, which fell in June this year, was the eleventh to quit since 1967. It had been in power for only 15 months. The dissident group was led by Union Railway Minister L. N. Mishra. Pande's group was supported by Union Home Minister Uma Shankar Dikshit. Pande had refused to have an alliance with the CPI.

Finally, the PM had to intervene by setting up Mr Ghafoor, a non-entity, as Chief Minister. How long Ghafoor will last is anyone's guess. Pande was also the PM's candidate. The axe did not fall on L. N. Mishra because he happens to be the chief election fund collector for the Congress Party.

Incomplete projects

One result of these intrigues is incomplete development projects. "The Times of India" of September 15 investigated many such projects around the country and found that crores of rupees have gone down the drain because of sheer neglect. About one such project in Andhra Pradesh, Inder Malhotra wrote, "The Visakhapatnam steel plant is perhaps the most shocking instance in point. Blood flowed in the streets of many towns in Andhra Pradesh and no fewer than 36 people lost their lives before the Andhras won their battle to get a steel plant.

"At last, in January 1971, Mrs Gandhi inaugurated the project amidst great rejoicing throughout Andhra. A 60-foot-high steel pylon was put up at the project site as a symbol of the hopes pinned by the Andhra people on the new project.

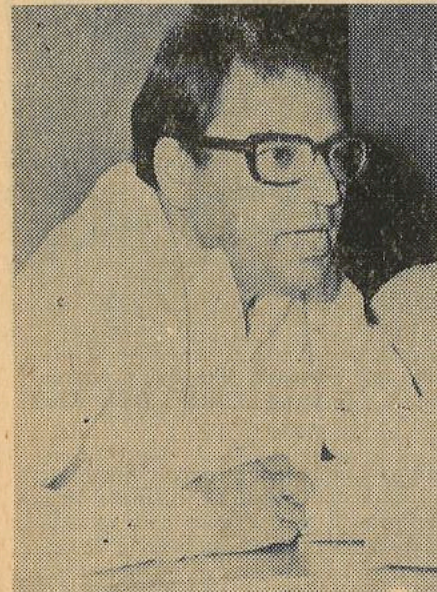
"Except for the fact that the pylon has rusted, nothing whatever has happened since at the desolate project site."

The people now do not care whether the Government sticks to its takeover resolution made in Bombay in 1969 or reverses it. Slogans are not edible. What the people want is food. When they stand in a queue for two hours they expect to buy wheat and essential commodities at the end of it. They want a shortening of queues. They want the Government to govern, the administration to act.

With no viable alternative to Congress in sight, the Congress has got to change gear.

Shocking state of Calcutta University

FOR THE LAST SIX or seven years, what has gone by the name of education in Calcutta has been nothing short of a scandal. The Calcutta



CHIEF MINISTER RAY: how about stronger measures?

University Vice-Chancellor, Dr S. N. Sen, in a fit of uncontrollable anger over the state of affairs, reportedly suggested that the only way to ensure peaceful examinations was to impose curfew and bring in the Army. This was more an expression of utter helplessness than anything else. Few people in authority appear to be as concerned.

Dr Sen, in trying to apportion responsibility, said the students needed to be controlled with an iron hand. Copying has become accepted as a matter of right. Where it is not allowed, the invigilators stand the risk of being assaulted, the exams are disrupted and college and university property smashed up. The students are, of course, to blame — but only to a certain extent. What Dr Sen did not say was that the Calcutta University — at one time the rendezvous of the country's leading intellectuals — is today one of the worst administered universities in the country.

It perpetually pleads bankruptcy. It is unable to cope with the innumerable grievances of its employees and affiliated colleges. It holds a 1971 examination in 1973. It publishes

results nine months to a year after the examination has been held (putting the blame on lackadaisical examiners). It wakes up a full month after an exam to realise that there has been mass copying — and summarily cancels the entire examination when thousands of students (among them quite a few who did not cheat) are eagerly waiting for the results in order to move on to the next phase in their careers.

This year the university's performance has been shocking even by its own standards. It was not aware that the staff in seven Government-sponsored colleges were on strike. So on September 3, when students turned up for the B.A. (Part I) exam in those centres, they found all the doors locked. Chaos in this case was carried a step further. All examinations for September 5 were postponed till September 15 so that new centres could be allotted. The university's announcement was made through the Press and radio. But three college principals apparently did not believe in these reports and went ahead with the exam on September 5 with a handful of students. The result is that thousands are now affected: new questions will have to be set and the exam has been

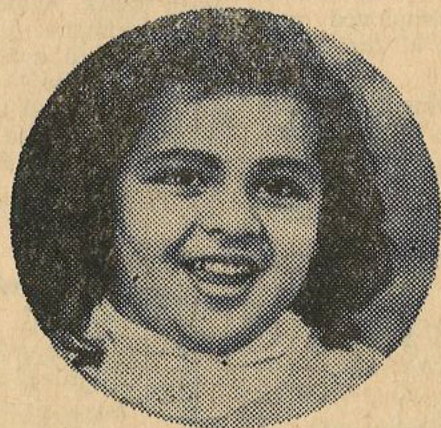
put off indefinitely. Even more ludicrous was the incident in which question papers arrived three hours late at one centre because the authorities said it was "raining too heavily".

After the fiasco on September 3, the students, true to form, went on the rampage breaking furniture and setting fire to office records. They, too, bettered their record this time by beating up the Controller of Examinations, Dr Alak Ghosh, who promptly resigned and returned to his much safer post as Head of the Economics Department.

CAMPUS COMMENT

On the face of it, there would appear to be a valid case for imposing curfew during an exam and bringing in the Army to control the students. But, first, how about stronger measures by the Governor, who is also the Chancellor, and the Chief Minister to clear the Augean stables, remove the deadwood and restore a missionary zeal to university administration?

Swapan Mallick



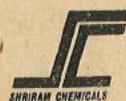
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VERDICT!

THIS WEEK HIMMAT ...

INVITES politicians to heed President Giri's advice to practice "sportsmanship" and additionally prescribes the practice of "sports" to contain the expansionism of the body.

UPHOLDS the contention of M. G. Ramachandran that All India Radio played down the success of the bandh organised by his party in Tamilnadu last week.

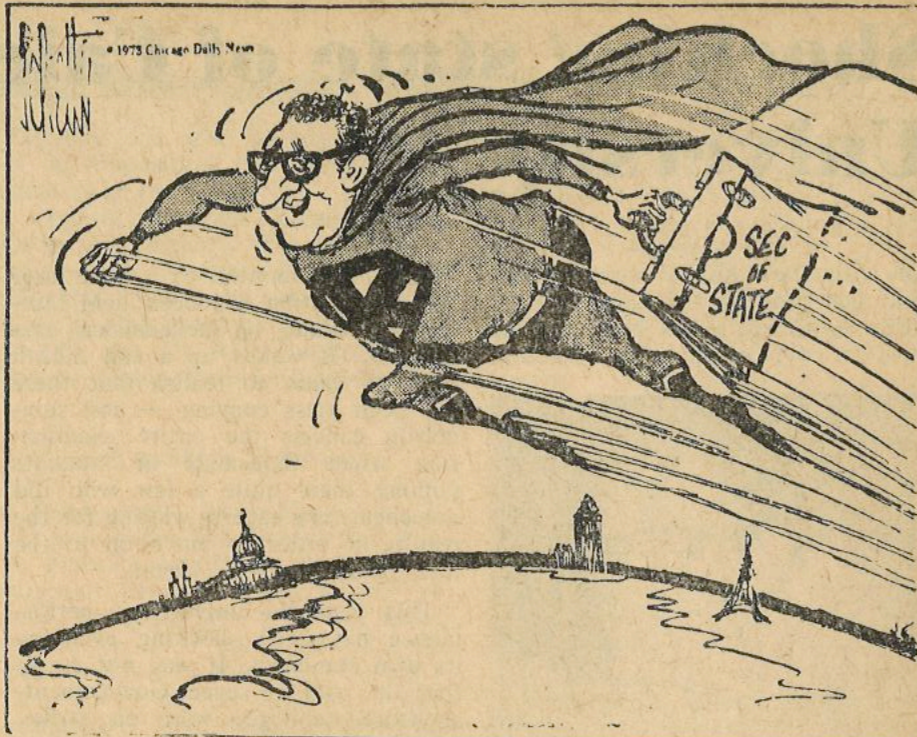
BOWS to Acharya Vinoba Bhave for his decision to observe half fasts for two days in a month and donate the three rupees thus saved to the Sarva Seva Sangh.

FLAYS the Governor of UP, Mr Akbar Ali Khan, for his statement that Hindi should be made the sole language of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and informs him that he will do a great service to the country and the Constitution by keeping his mouth shut on such sensitive issues.

IS SCANDALISED to learn that an ex-deputy minister and six former MPs are still in possession of their Government accommodation and condemns the frequent practice of legislators and Government servants who stay on at their official residence long after they have vacated their office.

IS GRIEVED at the closure of 141-year-old Swedish daily "Goteborgs Handels och Sjöfarts-Tidning" due to financial difficulties and hopes that someone with enough money will come forward to keep this influential and authoritative paper alive.

SAYS "HELLO" to the delay enquiry service shortly to be introduced in telephone exchanges in large towns in India, which will provide information on pending trunk calls.



"Now that my cover is blown, there won't be any pretence, like flying conventionally."
Courtesy: Chicago Daily News

BEST WORLD PRESS

FUTURE OF CHILE

The armed forces themselves are divided and may not be in a position to impose their will. This makes a civil war, with the sinister shades of Spain in 1936, nearly inevitable. To have overthrown a democratically-elected government by force was bad. To have also opened the way to possible civil war aggravates the crime.

THE GUARDIAN, London

POMPIDOU IN CHINA

At times France has seemed the western country that most closely reflected Chinese attitudes. In the early years of the new government in China the cause of anti-imperialism so dominated Chinese thinking as to leave little room for any classification of countries except as aggressive imperialists or struggling anti-imperialists. When this simple division began to be revised the Chinese acknowledged the existence of what they called the second intermediate zone, one of past imperialists who now resisted the dominance of the Americans. The message of de Gaulle was unmistakable. Gradually, as China revised her own view to one of a world dominated by two super powers that, by their nature, threatened the independence of all others, the French and Chinese positions seemed to have a lot in common. Each country had a justifiable case for developing nuclear weapons. Both, said Mr Chou En-lai, were "ardently attached to independence".

THE TIMES, London

China cannot hope to pull France into her camp and above all to make France take part in the virulent and systematic anti-Sovietism which prevails in Peking.

LE MONDE, Paris

DELHI'S NEEDLESS IRRITANT

The Indians plan to limit the number of senior American scholars admitted annually to do research in their country to 20 and the number of American graduate students allowed to study in Indian universities will also be sharply limited.

These moves are particularly bizarre because, even before the cuts, there were only 500 to 600 American scholars and students working in India annually, as against the 11,000 Indian students in American universities — the largest single group of foreigners studying here.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

...And those scholars and other professors and students who come to India to make a detailed study of special problems are usually motivated by a genuine desire to assist in the development of our country by making objective studies entailing a great deal of time and money and, sometimes, endurance of difficult living conditions as well. To suspect all foreign researchers of wanting to project India in a bad light in the style of Katherine Mayo, who functioned as a propagandist under the auspices of the British-India Government, is merely to expose one's own prejudice. We claim to be an open society and should be able to tolerate investigation, just as the Americans do in their own country.

THE HINDU, Madras

ASIA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA:

Independence for all but all together

It was not so long ago that Michael Somare, Chief Minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG), had to be hoisted



MICHAEL SOMARE: realistic

out of an overheated situation in Bougainville. The Bougainvillians, whose copper-rich island accounts for a vast chunk of the country's growing GNP, were becoming more passionate than ever in their demand for secession from the embryonic nation. But Somare has appealed to secessionist leaders in Bougainville to make a serious attempt at creating one independent nation before breaking away. He promised them autonomy within the new PNG constitution. To prove it, he named Father John Momis, a Catholic priest and politician from Bougainville, to lead the Constitutional Planning Committee due to table its constitution in February next year.

With self-government coming in December and the Australian Labor Government pushing vigorously for independence by the end of next year, nationhood is coming so fast that even the radical secessionists seem prepared to give it a go. Father Momis, a radical by most standards, has complained that Canberra is transferring powers to the PNG House of Assembly so fast that the Constitutional Planning Committee has little time to consider the implications.

When the House of Assembly sat two weeks ago, the Government took 41 pieces of legislation to the House dealing with many of the major issues involved in the transfer of constitutional power from Canberra. Nothing, it seemed, could stop such a momentum towards independence.

But something, or rather someone, now threatens to upset it all. That someone is Josephine Abaijah, a diminutive, soft-speaking woman who will not confess her age (somewhere around 30), and who, just over one year ago, became the first

popularly elected woman to the House of Assembly. Representing the Central District of Papua, Miss Abaijah has become something of a Papuan Bernadette Devlin, fighting passionately for the secession of Papua, the Australian Territory which makes up the southern section of the country.

Many Papuans claim that the bulk of Australian development aid has been spent on populous New Guinea, which is a UN Trusteeship administered by Australia. Papua in the meantime has been neglected. She points to the vast hydro-electric potential (under study by the Japanese), gold and copper deposits awaiting development, and exploration for oil, gas and bauxite, and says that Papua on its own could become the richest land area in the South Pacific.

Fear of domination

But deeper still lies the inherent mistrust between Papuans and New Guineans; the fear that an independent PNG would be dominated by New Guineans (Somare is a New Guinean), and that Papua would remain neglected and destitute. The evidence of violence between the two groups would partly justify this claim. Clashes between coastal Papuans and New Guinean highlanders are frequent in Port Moresby, the budding capital city.

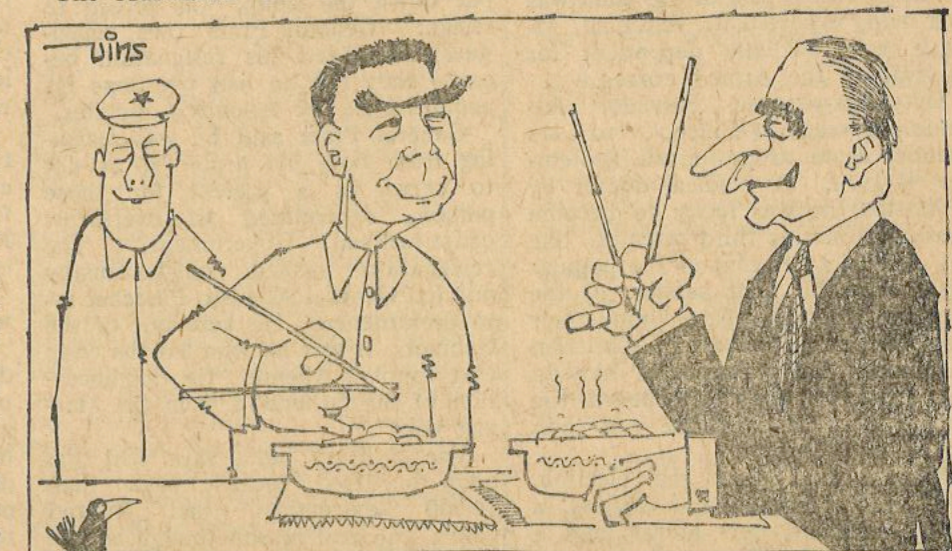
The Australian Government how-

ever is determined to see PNG independent as a single nation. In an interview with Miss Abaijah, the Australian Minister for External Territories, William Morrison, stressed the policy of his government and said it had been directed by the UN to ensure unity of PNG. Miss Abaijah, who always maintained that her demands were non-negotiable, said after the meeting that she was willing to take the secession issue to a referendum of the Papuan people and would accept the outcome — perhaps a hopeful sign.

Chief Minister Somare was perhaps a little more realistic in his approach when he offered Miss Abaijah a tour of all under-developed areas of Papua New Guinea. He challenged her to look at the problem of development as a whole and said she should not try to secure greater development for Papua by causing division and misunderstanding among people. Agreeing with her that Papua had suffered from 80 years of unbalanced Australian development, he pledged that his Government would channel money into depressed areas.

Yet, Somare's Government has announced new security measures to curb violence on a national scale. Under the new measures, people convicted of rioting will be repatriated to their home areas to serve their final prison sentences.

Sporadic violence and tribal fighting in the next months of transition is perhaps inevitable. But whether a large scale security clampdown will have to be used may depend on Miss Abaijah's efforts to disrupt the whole process, for neither Chief Minister Somare nor Prime Minister Whitlam are likely to back down.



"In France we have a new saying, 'Learn new ways of eating but stick to French menus'."

Undemocratic end for Chile's Marxist democrat

ALEXANDER DUBCEK, who tried to give a human face to Communism in Czechoslovakia and guide it towards a Marxist democracy, was crushed in 1968 by the Soviet Army. Salvador Allende, the first freely elected Marxist President in the world, tried to guide his country towards Communism through democracy and was ousted last week by Chile's Armed Forces. Ironically, both attempts proved disastrous.

The right-wing coup in Chile has ended an experiment that was watched with close interest in many parts of the world. It is sad that democracy has ended in a nation which was proud of its long democratic history. But Allende was mainly to blame. In the last 12 months inflation went up 323 per cent. Food was not available in the shops. A series of crippling strikes, the most recent involving mine workers and lorry owners, had brought the nation's economy virtually to a halt. Hasty nationalisation and land reforms had not worked. Within a year of Allende taking office, money in circulation had increased by 120 per cent.

Demonstrations for or against the President were a daily occurrence. Allende, who talked of "Allende or civil war" began to realise that events were leading towards Allende and civil war.

The strangest part of the coup was that many expected it. After all, Allende was virtually dependent for survival on the Armed Forces.

Sixty-four-year-old Salvador Allende Gossens ("Chicho" to his friends) came to power on September 4, 1970. A medical doctor by profession, he was lucky to become President on this third attempt. He got only 36.3 per cent of the popular votes, but the joint session of the Chilean Congress gave him their support. The powerful Christian Democratic Party supported him on the condition that he obeyed the Constitution. The promise was soon forgotten.

Allende said after the election, "We must create a new society, a new conscience, new morals and a new economy". He promised a programme of nationalisation ranging from the takeover of mines and

banks to foreign trade. He knew that to make nationalisation work, Chile would "need a disciplined people capable of sacrifice and work." Nationalisation was easy but his failure lay in his inability to find dedicated people to make it work.

He formed a coalition Government, but no bill could be passed without the support of the Opposition. This proved very frustrating. Allende began to use dubious means to bypass both the Congress and the courts. Thus, when the Congress would not give permission to Allende to nationalise industries, he used a 1932 decree, that had never been erased from the statute books. The decree empowered the Government to take over any industry where production had ceased. His supporters would occupy a factory, production would screech to a halt, and so nationalisation would be effected.

Military join cabinet

His frustration with the Opposition majority in Congress led to a situation where the Armed Forces were invited to join the Cabinet. Thus the military, who had traditionally kept to the barracks, began to get a taste of power. An attempted coup on June 29 this year was crushed. But within two months the Army Commander-in-Chief and Minister of Defence, General Carlos Prats, who put down the coup, was forced to resign. General Prats' own colleagues demanded his resignation because they felt he had overdone his acquiescence to Allende's dictates.

General Prats said he was resigning from both his posts "so as not to serve as a pretext for those persons determined to overthrow constitutional Government." The resignation pushed constitutionally minded General Augusto Pinochet into prominence. He kept out of the Cabinet. It was he who led the coup that toppled Allende "for the liberation of the fatherland from the Marxist yoke".

The military junta says that the coup occurred because more than 10,000 "extremists" had entered Chile. The real reason though is that Dr Allende had led this once stable nation towards economic disaster and civil war. The extreme leftists,



SALVADOR ALLENDE:
his spirit rides on

the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) were preparing for a revolution and had begun setting up paramilitary brigades and workers' councils. The extreme right wing Falanga y Libertad were experimenting with guerrilla methods. They openly called for assassination of military officers and sabotage of Government. Chilean military intelligence recently estimated that there were more than twice as many civilians with weapons as there were police and troops. Heavy stocks of arms and ammunition found in nationalised industrial plants after the coup confirm that an armed insurrection was being planned. The future will show whether the Army has nipped the civil war in the bud or merely postponed it. If civil war comes, it could easily develop into a Vietnam-type situation which may drag in the USA.

There will be much argument as to whether Allende committed suicide or was shot by soldiers. As for the future, Chile's experiment with Marxism through democracy has been snuffed.

"A victory by the electoral route will be difficult for us, but it is the best way for Chile," this was Allende's belief. The failure of this experiment may lead to Communists around the world, who dreamt of Marxist Governments flourishing in democratic frameworks, resorting more to violent methods. A return to the belief that power is obtained through the barrel of a gun may be on the cards for even moderate Marxists.

Boumedienne suits Algeria

by Colin Jackson

HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE, President of Algeria, has an unusual speciality. He is an expert at keeping himself out of the headlines.

It could be, of course, as some cynics say, that he is a bit short on charisma. He is certainly no great orator. His rather blank face, with its non-chic moustache, is seldom seen smiling. No pretty ladies are ever observed with him. An Algerian official in the Presidency very proudly answered, when I enquired about the President's age, "We have no official biography". He could not tell me whether the President was married. Some say he had been some years ago, and has a son studying in France; others firmly allege that he is a bachelor.

But somehow the President seems to suit Algeria. He and his nation have a dour streak.

After they finally won independence from the French in 1962, they were bitter. In fighting for freedom they had lost a million people. The streets of the shattered towns were filled with thousands of orphans. Then the million-odd French, who panicked and fled in 1962, left behind them a bankrupt economy and a totally untrained Arab population. Three years of Ben Bella as the first President did not help. He specialised in speeches with a wild Marxist flavour. As his country slid further into chaos, the bitter joke around Algiers was that the nation would be the first in the world to achieve a state of full unemployment.

So it suited the people, when Colonel Boumedienne seized power in 1965, for their leader to stop making speeches and start working. During the first few years, which included an assassination attempt and the threat of a coup, Boumedienne moved around very secretly. He was seldom seen. The papers carried few pictures of him. But then a French army doctor fixed the President's teeth so that he was not too embarrassed to venture the occasional smile. And thereafter Houari Boumedienne seemed to gain the people's confidence.

This summer, in Algiers, I find that the President and the nation are much more relaxed. From being a secret leader, Boumedienne has become a public President. I went along to watch the former stern defence chief exchanging questions and answers with 5000 students, many of whom had flown home and inter-

rupted their studies to debate the nation's future with the President.

President Boumedienne also travels the country these days, taking half the Cabinet with him, setting up his HQ for a day or two in regional capitals for "talk-ins" on future planning with local officials.

The "in" word these days in Algiers is "pragmatic". One is told that Algeria is a pragmatic socialist



Things are looking up for Algeria: from a secret leader, Boumedienne has become a public President

republic. The Western visitor is informed that Algeria intends to play a leading role in the Third World. It is significant that the fourth summit conference of the non-aligned states was held in Algiers. Algerian officials told me that their country wants to have good relations both with Western capitalist countries and also with the Soviet Union and China.

Algiers' spokesman on foreign affairs is Abdul Aziz Bouteflika, Foreign Secretary since its independence. Still only in his 30s, Abdul Aziz is everything Boumedienne is not. He is a very dressy man.

All the same, like almost all Algerians, Bouteflika works hard. He will undertake long arduous journeys through the people's republics of North Korea and North Vietnam espousing the socialist cause. He has had endless interviews with the leaders of 17 revolutionary groups, ranging from Frelimo to Free Canary Island who have offices in Algiers. And, to be fair to Bouteflika, he has just concluded a highly successful visit to Paris where most of the outstanding disputes between the two old enemies have been solved.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

LEH — In a public speech the Kashmir Chief Minister, Mr Syed Mir Qasim, has decried the present agitation to make Ladakh a Union territory. This is the first public speech made in this area by a state Chief Minister in 20 years.

NEW DELHI — All the Avro planes of the Indian Airlines have been withdrawn because of the detection of metal fatigue during flight. Twenty-one stations will remain without air services until alternative arrangements are worked out.

— An extensive all-India survey carried out on behalf of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Planning, discloses that only 40 per cent of couples believe in limiting their family to two or three children as part of the population control programme.

CALCUTTA — Mr Jaideep Mukherjee, the tennis star, was arrested on his return from abroad in connection with the wheat bran permit scandal. Over 70 people have been arrested so far, including some high Government officials.

BOMBAY — The 26-day-old resident doctors' strike — the longest ever — in Maharashtra was called off after the Government and the doctors reached an agreement.

PANAJI — The Government has warned fishermen not to fish within two furlongs from the point where waste materials from the Zuari fertiliser factory are discharged into the sea. An inquiry is in progress into the large-scale death of fish in the area.

BANGALORE — Two people were killed in the current wave of violence sweeping Mysore in the wake of student agitation against the price-rise and alleged police excesses.

— Mr Devraj Urs, Chief Minister of Mysore, has rejected an opposition demand for the resignation of Mr K. H. Patil, the Agriculture Minister, who has been charged by the Public Undertakings Committee with having favoured a co-operative textile mill situated in his home constituency.

MADRAS — The anti-price rise "bandh" in Tamilnadu on September 13, called by the ADMK, CPI, CPM and allied parties, was almost total and passed off peacefully. The state Government had arrested thousands of "anti-social elements" prior to it.

KOTTAYAM — Opposition MLAs are considering resigning en masse from the Kerala Assembly as a protest against the Government's failure on the food front, according to Mr E. John Jacob, deputy leader of the Kerala Congress (O).

Lanka's youngest MP wants policies to replace personalities

SRI LANKA — a country of lotus and granite, of old fables and new dogmas, small yet strategic, ruled for two decades by the Bandaranaiques and the Senanayakes.

Another Senanayake has surfaced politically. Sri Lanka's youngest MP is 25-year-old Rukman Senanayake.

When the coveted constituency of Dedigama fell vacant on Dudley Senanayake's death, the United National Party (UNP) high command asked his nephew Rukman to stand. The ruling United Front (UF) put forward a powerful candidate — also a Senanayake, but not a relation. The country held its breath. And then Rukman won hands down.

I asked what lay behind his victory. His answer was frank, "One, disgust with the Government's economic policies. Two, Dudley Sena-

nanayake's personality." People, he said, looked at him not as Rukman Senanayake, nor as his uncle's nephew, but as a political successor to Dudley Senanayake. "And I feel awful," he said. "I would prefer to live on my own merits. If I am capable let me rise. If not, let me fall."

Idealistic, outspoken and young — these are the characteristics of Rukman Senanayake. And all points are in his favour.

"The main thing I learnt from my uncle," said Rukman, "was that the primary duty of a person is to serve society. When the opportunity arises, one must take it. When I was offered the chance to contest the seat at Dedigama, I felt that if I turned my back I would become a traitor to my conscience."

What the Government could not control, said Rukman, was a dead

man's force: "They did not realise that Dudley could be deadly." Moving scenes were witnessed at Dudley Senanayake's funeral when UNP leader J. R. Jayawardene bade farewell to his colleague with, "Good-night sweet Prince, may the devas attend you." Three million turned out to pay their homage. "They (the constituents) wanted to show their appreciation to my uncle. They gave me the seat," Rukman was brutally honest.

The UF candidate was defeated by 4508 votes. In the 1970 elections he had lost to Dudley by only 1067. The polling pattern indicated that the majority of the 5000 new voters favoured Rukman.

On his first day in Parliament Rukman was smartly groomed in an off-white suit, a matching shirt and a bright tie. He readily agreed to answer questions. He was courteous and yet intense in his replies.

"What the country needs most is a clear cut policy," he said. Attacking the Government for the economic mess it had made, he said, "Socialism is nothing if people cannot make both ends meet." His complaint against the United Front was that it represented different political ideologies — ultra left, left, right. "We don't know what policy they will enunciate when we get up tomorrow."

Rukman asserted that the reason for the insurgency that almost overthrew the Government two years ago was that promises made by the Government were not fulfilled. "No country can boast of democracy and keep political prisoners without trial," he said referring to the 4000 'Che Guevarists' still in prison while only 42 are undergoing trial. He defended his own Party's election gimmick of promising to release the insurgents without trial if they came to power.

On the other issues however, he saw the shortcomings of his own Party clearly. "We cannot afford any backbiting and scheming, when we are dealing with the lives of millions," he said. He felt that the UNP party organisation must be made more democratic. Men must be allowed to come up from the bottom.

"For a long time in Sri Lanka we have gone for personalities. It is not enough any longer." Again and again he came back to the need for creating political cells in the country. "It is not the same as address-

ing public meetings," he said, "So far we have always had a negative vote, of what we don't want. But now the younger people want a clear cut policy."

In the earlier years Rukman went with his uncle on election campaigns. Politics for him began with a study of Marxism. He studied at St Thomas College, Colombo, and then went for higher studies at the South East London College. He was about to enter the London School of Economics for further studies when his family summoned him back. They had heard rumours that he had become a Communist.

"I am an admirer of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara but that does not mean I am a Communist. I admire Jesus Christ but that does not make me a Christian." He professes to have faith in socialism but in "socialism that means decentralisation of power."

On his return from England, he toyed with the idea of entering politics. "I had come to a grinding halt. I was frustrated," he said. Ru-

mours started circulating that Dudley was going to groom Rukman as his successor. "I did not want my uncle to be accused of this. So I decided to go into tourism."

As Rukman was answering questions, seated behind a desk in the Party office in Parliament, over the speakers could be heard the debate on the Lakehouse Bill, curbing press freedom. Talking about freedom, he said, "Unlike India, we did not have to fight for our freedom. Gradually it came. The flag was unfurled one day. Every five years the Government changes. Now it is going to be every seven years. We are now going to realise what political freedom really means."

Rukman said he was against violence as a political technique. "Asia is not meant for a violent revolution."

As the interview came to a close, I said to him, "I hope you will continue to speak out your mind."

"I intend to," he replied.



RUKMAN SENANAYAKE:
political successor to Dudley?

N.C.

Colombo: a new junction on drug route

by Guy de Fontgalland

IN a remote village in Sri Lanka, a group of people — peasants, vegetable brokers and smalltime businessmen — sit under a cluster of trees and smoke ganja (cannabis or hashish as it is known elsewhere). The entire village knows the spot and refers to it as the "smokers' club".

A mile away, a native physician, under the guise of treating patients, is stealthily dealing in opium. Sometimes his "patients" walk out of the clinic laughing, singing. The village calls the physician a "black-ball dealer".

Some 50 miles away, in the large tracts of jungle isolated from police supervision, farmers are growing ganja along with chillis, onions and yams and are providing the "green leaf mudalalis" (ganja chiefs) with their high-priced trade commodity, which is diverted to the various outlets around Colombo.

For many years, there was hardly any official check on the use of opium and ganja in Sri Lanka. Today, however, with the increasing link between the rural and urban areas and the resultant widespread use of

narcotics, the Government is becoming worried.

Its first reaction has been to set up a Narcotics Bureau under police supervision. The bureau's purpose: to collect data on producers and distributors of narcotics and wipe out the trade altogether.

According to police intelligence reports, there is heavy consumption of narcotics within the country and a powerful network of narcotics smuggling into and out of Sri Lanka.

According to the same reports, the use of narcotics in urban areas has shot up during the past 10 years — from some two per cent to about 10 per cent. The use of narcotics, which was confined to labourers and slum-dwellers, has now become fashionable at trendy parties for young people. The police recently raided a party at which a 25-year-old musician had ripped open his thigh with a broken bottle — while he was on a "trip".

According to data available from the police and customs, nearly 2000 pounds of opium have been seized while being smuggled from India into Sri Lanka during the past three years. Narcotics Bureau Chief R. Sunderalingam believes that this is

only a "fraction" of the total amount smuggled into the country over this period.

India is the monopoly-producer of lawfully cultivated opium — an annual production of 800 tons which is approximately 80 per cent of the world's requirement for medical purposes. There is also an intensified illicit cultivation of opium poppy in the Indian states of West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

Opium from central India is first brought to storage points in South India, neatly packed in polythene bags, and then illegally transported in canoes and motorboats across the Palk Strait to Sri Lanka's northern coastal points — Valvettiturai, Point Pedro, Thondamanaan, Kankesanthurai, Mullaitivu and Manaar. From the delivery points, the opium is directed to various exit points in the country.

A pound of opium costs around US \$35 (Rs 280) in India, US \$200 in Sri Lanka, and around US \$400 in Hong Kong. It later fetches vast sums when broken up.

There have been no cases of smuggling ganja into the country but the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



A COUNTRY OF LOTUS AND GRANITE:
a stupa in one of Lanka's ancient capitals

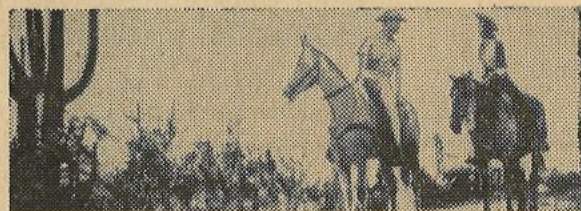
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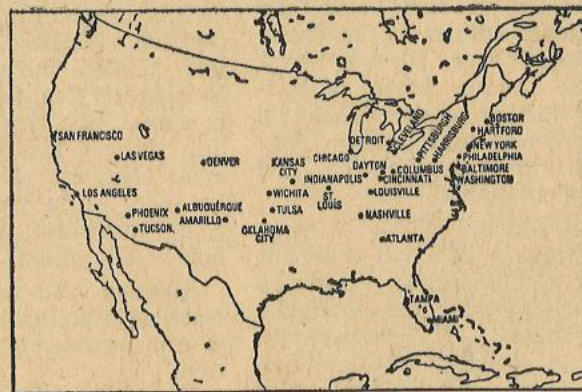


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Viewpoint

How can people from crowded cities be attracted to the countryside?

Emphasize the village attractions

Rs 25 to Miss Veena Shenoy, Patna 1

TRAVEL, electricity, education, medical amenities, opportunities for social, intellectual and recreational development pull people to the towns. Facilities in the towns make them happier and more comfortable than in a village.

Social strictures, such as rigid rules of caste, and ostracism that follow when the village code of conduct is broken, irk the modern enlightened rural youth. Unemployment, non-availability of credit and virtual slavery to money-lenders prevent people from living a full life in the country. These push them to the urban area.

Besides removing the forces which repel folk from the countryside, we should emphasize the attractions — nature unspoiled and unpolluted in all its scenic beauty, healthy environment, friendship of people where everyone knows everyone else, their unsophisticated simple life, the joyous innocence of children, and many other rural benefits.

These attractions would remain out of reach without transport facilities which connect villages with the expertise available in the town. Roads and transport enable the free flow of trade, capital, knowledge and people — the life blood of an economy.

Efficient schools, hospitals, libraries, museums, sanatoria, highlighted by advertising and propaganda, are bound to draw crowds to the countryside and keep them there. The example of the educated rich, who deliberately choose to live in the

Shift industries to villages

Rs 15 to Y. Maria Dias, Madurai Dist

EMPLOYMENT prospects and the very many amenities which cities are said to provide are the main reasons for the attraction of people to the cities. Any attempt to draw the people from the crowded cities back to the countryside must be an endeavour to place these facilities within the reach of the people in the countryside.

Creation of greater employment opportunities in the villages will help attract the city people to the countryside. India being a nation of villages, the planning for the nation's development must aim at the development of the rural areas. The dumping of industries in the cities must be stopped. New industries, especially small scale industries, must be started in the villages.

Secondly, the villages must be made into liveable places. At least the minimum amenities could be provided. If there are no local markets for the people to buy their foodstuffs from, no medical, schooling, transport facilities, how

country in preference to the town, would be a demonstration for others to follow suit.

But we will only be duplicating the crowded towns with their attendant evils of slums, poverty and unemployment, unless "garden cities", which combine the best of town and village life, are planned and executed.

can one expect the people in cities to go back to the countryside?

Though many people prefer country life to the city life, there is also a tendency to under-rate the country life and consider the city life as the only life of culture and civilisation. This is due to the recreational facilities that are possible in the cities.

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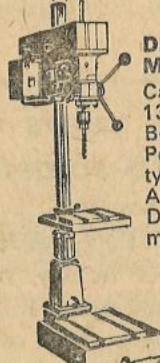
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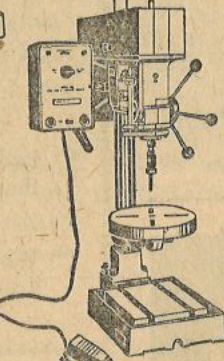
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THIS INDIA

THE BOMBAY CROWS

The crow population in Bombay is on the increase. The society for the preservation of birds should feel gratified.

There are crows and crows. There are the types who live in Bhindi Bazaar area and mingle with the crowds. Then there is the elite who live on Pali Hill in Bandra, in the vicinity of the film stars. You can see them near the latest air-conditioned Impalas with an "eagle" eye on the money (as black as they) hidden behind the jack or inside the punctured tyre.

The ones near VT station look jaded and faded, as if they have been commuting all day. The LIC crows provide an insurance against the attack on life and property by eagles. The Reserve Bank crows, balanced on the telephone wires, are waiting to migrate to greener pastures. Others continuously caw-caw for extra bonus.

The civic crows make it their business to reduce the size of garbage dumps. Their service saves the municipality thousands of rupees annually.

Some crows are now frequenting the Oberoi Sheraton, and have created an exclusive world of their own.

There is a crow who perches himself on the window sill of the Malabar Hill church. He joins the choir in singing hymns on Sunday mornings. He sometimes strays from the tune but his vigour compensates for the musical

deficiency. He is the type who wants to be in the mainstream of religious life.

Outside my office is a crow who is learning to climb a ladder. He has a go at a few rungs every day. One day he will make it to the top!

When his country cousins, the ravens, drop in to visit him (in most cases unannounced), the crow is not overjoyed. He cannot be blamed, in these days of food shortages.

The Bombay crow is a worthy descendent of the proverbial crow, who finding the level of water in a water pot very low, began to drop little stones inside. Slowly the level rose and he was able to drink. He is ingenious in finding ways and means of dealing with the present situation created by scarcities.

Some crows in this city build nests but do not live in them. Many of those who do, often tire of them quickly and move to new nests.

In many ways, the crow is a strange bird. When one of his ilk dies, a whole army of crows hovers over the dead body crying mournfully. But when it is a question of food, the crow is a pastmaster in the art of outwitting his cronies.

Crow-watching is becoming my favourite pastime. Every crow I meet generally reminds me of someone I know.

Keerja Chowdhury

ALGIERS — from page 11

Still, as Bouteflika is playing the role of the well-dressed radical abroad, the President and his people simply concentrate on trying to earn a living.

The national output of oil is now around 55 million tonnes. A big steel complex is going up at Annaba. Britain, Italy, America, Germany, and Russia are all taking part in it. The Japanese and the Algerians have just completed an oil refinery at Arzew.

The Algerian growth rate is now at the level of nine per cent a year. Along with Japan and Brazil, Algeria claims to be the most rapidly expanding country in the world and there is no reason why it should not continue to drive ahead.

But now President Boumediene is turning his attention to the 70 per cent of the people who earn a living off farming. And — most observers will say — not before time. For, whereas industry with a much smaller labour force has been getting 45 per cent of the nation's investment income, farming has only been getting 15 per cent. Algeria has still not recovered from the collapse of the wine

industry when the French fled. Russia now takes 70 per cent of the wine output, but the price is poor.

Now a drive goes on to extend irrigation, to convert the land from vineyards to wheatfields. A thousand villages are to be built. Taking a leaf out of the Chinese book, students are now being urged by the President to volunteer to work on the land and get the crucial harvest in. But Boumediene must reckon with the need to create 100,000 new jobs each year to stop unemployment getting worse. Only the pay-packets of some 700,000 Algerian workers in Europe makes life, in some desperate villages, bearable at all.

Still, Algeria is not, at the moment, a land ripe for revolution. Someone remarked to me in Algiers that the people were too busy working to find time to take part in a revolution! Certainly, at the moment, Boumediene and the people suit each other. As one farmer remarked: "I shall never see the good times in my life, but my seven children, I am sure, will. The national plan tells me that by 2000 AD we shall be as rich as the people of Rome!" — FWF

Within a week

of publishing the article on the Swedish Medium-Lift Pump (HIMMAT, August 24) two major Indian engineering firms and one London firm asked for further details on it.

Following the article written by Australian dairy specialist Stanley Barnes (HIMMAT, August 3) two international firms sent a representative for copies of his pamphlet AID, TRADE AND MALNUTRITION for study.

THESE are only two instances picked from many of the impact of HIMMAT.

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Letters

☆DOCTOR'S PLAN FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

WE have formed a body called the Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG) and formulated a plan by which medical students can help their immediate neighbourhood.

The aim of this plan is to utilise the services of internees, final year medical students and students of nursing colleges in carrying out preventive and promotive services for the benefit of other university students. Initially, we have picked 1100 under-graduate students of C. U. Shah Commerce and Science Colleges for a pilot project. The care will include:

1. A medical check-up.
 2. Study of the personal and social environment of each student as this plays a vital role in the individual's health.
 3. Provision of hospital care by specialists including psychiatric care.
 4. Conducting a programme of health education throughout the year.
 5. Home visits by a medical student internee with a student nurse once every four months to advise on health and hygiene.
 6. Facilities for periodic vaccination.
- Through this plan, we want to involve all the students in planning, organising and conducting the programme, thus creating a platform for a student health movement as well as group which would educate the entire community later. We also wish to help other health bodies with the family health and epidemiological data thus obtained.

DR YOGENDRA SHARMA,
Ahmedabad 16

☆Winner : prize Rs 10

WELCOME DR KISSINGER

It is always a tradition to welcome anyone newly appointed to a responsible position. So we must welcome Dr Kissinger, the newly-appointed American Secretary of State.

DRUG ROUTE — from page 13

stepped-up cultivation of ganja here, which is far in excess of the local requirements, indicates that the drug finds its way out of the country. Locally, the price of ganja is US \$20 per pound.

The Narcotics' Bureau in Colombo has already 160 names and addresses of opium and ganja dealers on its list.

The men of the Narcotics' Bureau also fear that the Vietnam peace could change the drug route of the

We Indians have had bitter experience of Dr Kissinger during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, when he told the State Department officials "to be tough with India".

Let us wish Dr Kissinger well and hope that he will make the dream of the US President, "the generation of peace, an era of peace", a reality and go down in the US history as the most effective Secretary of the State after Dulles, and as the greatest diplomat of our times.

N. H. RAVINDRANATH, Dharwar 5

IS GOD PRESENT?

AT a time when renowned papers take pride in publishing articles denying God's existence, it is gratifying for people who believe in God to read in HIMMAT the article "Is God Present?" by Rajmohan Gandhi, showing with simple but convincing arguments that God is present. While congratulating the author for his courage in taking this bold step I hope many will read this article carefully and with reflection.

FR C. MOOLAMATTAM, Borgang, Assam

I do enjoy reading HIMMAT from cover to cover. A special mention must be made about Rajmohan Gandhi whom we always meet on the last page. His article "Is God Present?", (August 24) was worth reading twice. It is a very relevant question for today and one to which many earnestly seek a convincing answer. Articles of this type will make the people feel the presence of God in their midst, and help many make their life better and meaningful.

MATHEW KOKKATT, Ranchi

WIN A PRIZE

FEEL anything strongly? Something you simply must say or point out? If so, this is your page. Brevity and punch will count in your favour. The prize letter, whenever selected by the Editor will win Rs 10. Please address your letter to the Editor, HIMMAT Weekly, White House, 91 Walkeshwar Road, Bombay 400 006.

This was a Life

DAYANAND BANDODKAR

1911-1973

THE former Chief Minister of Goa, the late Mr Dayanand Bandodkar, was a man of varied interests, and the wealthiest to hold such an office in India.

Born in Podnom, Goa, and educated at the Portuguese Lyceum, he went, at an early age, into the iron-ore business and by sheer acumen and industry gradually amassed a fortune. A staunch patriot, he took part in the Quit India movement. Later he actively associated with the Goa freedom struggle to which he provided liberal financial assistance.

Mr Bandodkar could not keep quiet when the Congress Party opposed an immediate merger of Goa with Maharashtra. He founded the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party which swept the polls in the first-ever democratic elections in Goa. The Congress managed to secure only one seat! The Bandodkar administration became a byword for efficiency and the human touch.

He was an able journalist and a gifted short-story writer, and regularly contributed to many Marathi newspapers. He was also a great sports-lover and was particularly interested in cricket. He was responsible for the only good playground which Panaji can boast of. His love of wild life led to an unusual collection of pets — a leopard, a deer, hunting dogs, birds and many cats!

Any Goan student in India, when in an urgent financial need, had just to drop Mr Bandodkar a personal note and an interest-free loan would great him by return post! In some deserving cases even the principal amount was not collected!

He was famous for an indigenous cure for jaundice. He would personally treat anyone who requested help. Once, in the dead of night, he travelled 40 miles to treat a peasant's son.

He was disillusioned with the craze for personal power. He believed that power should only be sought to serve the people: "A leader should be a living example of humility, service to society, strength of character, and courage of conviction."

S. C.

— FWF



What Bombay has shown by Rajmohan Gandhi

PLUSES sometimes bring minuses with them.

Monsoons bring new life; the floods they create destroy existing life. The rains that have cheered India have distressed Pakistan. Within India Maharashtra seems finally to have been blessed, although the hardships of its citizens will not be relieved for several weeks. Gujarat has seen its drought of unusual severity followed by terrifying, merciless floods. Indian life is unlikely to be rosy for years.

The people of Bombay have lived through five months of scarcities and inflation. "The Times of India" writes of "a scramble for eggs" in the city. It adds, "Milk and butter can be had for neither praise nor paise. Kerosene and cooking oil are in troubled waters and bread cannot be bought with dough. Everything else — such things as are available, that is — is rationed or irrationally expensive." A sense of humour is a valve that can prevent an explosion, and like "The Times of India" writer many of Bombay's citizens have used it to forget, for a while, the deprivation from which they have suffered.

But bleak reality returns, and the "Times" writer goes on: "Bombay, isolated in many respects from the better off hinterland, is a city in anguish. It has been deprived of water, shelter, fresh air, cohesion and a measure of peace and quiet...Practically everything vended is either adulterated or sub-standard...There are queues at ration shops, bus stops, railway stations and cinema counters. Morchas, strikes, gheraos and fasts proliferate, adding poignancy to a hopeless situation."

Men and women of venerable age in Bombay say that they do not recall facing strains of this magnitude and variety before. Yet it must be recorded that Bombayites have carried themselves with dignity and grace during this unprecedented phase. Apart from

their ability to look at the funny side, they have shown resourcefulness and patience and have, by and large, kept intact their faith in a more comfortable future. The minuses have been accompanied by pluses.

Bombayites have gone without things to which they were accustomed, in some cases things that come near to being necessary for survival. They have altered their eating habits and modes of transport. Some have moved out towards the hinterland, where food is easier to get, and spend an additional six hours a day on travel. In fact it can be said that the people of Bombay have shown aspects of the resilience and strength of our country.

Indians are not alone in having to bear with stresses. Chile's democratically elected government has been roughly and rudely overthrown, and blood seems to have been spilled in different parts of the country. A military junta appears to have given itself the right to rule the land.

China is not sailing in calm waters. It is proceeding with its high-level diplomacy; French President Pompidou has just conferred for hours on end in Peking with Premier Chou. But Chou En-lai appears less securely placed than he has been. Mrs Chang Ching, the wife of Mao Tse-tung, is reported to be initiating manoeuvres against him. A clash between the two could bring serious violence and unrest to China.

China's Communist Party recently met in conference in Peking after quite an interval. Chou En-lai is stated to have maintained his position. The coming months may or may not confirm this view.

There was a remarkable oddity about this conference: it was planned and held in secrecy. Those taking part claimed they spoke for the people, but the people were in the dark until some days after the confabulations were over. This

is a curious and indeed frightening method of deciding the future of hundreds of millions.

Our democracy is painfully defective. But we can be thankful all the same for it. Our legislatures at times function in a manner that invites disrespect, but we can nonetheless be glad they exist. In the dealings between our people and government officials corruption often enters; but men are around who fight it. Our newspapers may not always be as enterprising or responsible as may be desired; but they are free.

Distant dictatorships always appear pleasanter than they are. The people of India would scarcely rejoice if their lives and conditions were to be decided for them in total secrecy by a select group that maintained a facade of unity but was in reality undermined by suspicion and intrigue.

We cannot forget our minuses. But let us think also of the pluses. Before independence it was forecast by some that our different communities were different nationalities and could not live together. Twenty-five years of independence have proved them wrong. Another prediction was that parochial and regional forces would triumph over those making for national unity. This too has conspicuously failed to happen. The different provincial parts of the country have steadily acquired an Indianness, and an Indianness that is not merely superficial.

Obvious as the many inadequacies of the administration are, one has to recognise and salute the way in which, for instance, drought relief works were organised in a State like Maharashtra.

Democracy is our strength, and the broadmindedness of our people is another. We cannot afford to lose them. And if somehow vigour can be added to our patience, and dedication to our democracy and honesty to our administration, India would give the world something to marvel at.

Fatehpur Sikri, constructed between 1569 and 1585 is a glorious example of the synthesis of Muslim and Hindu artistic traditions encouraged by Akbar during his reign. While the fortifications and entrance gateways are clearly a product of Muslim tradition, the main residential accommodation has a distinctly Hindu character.

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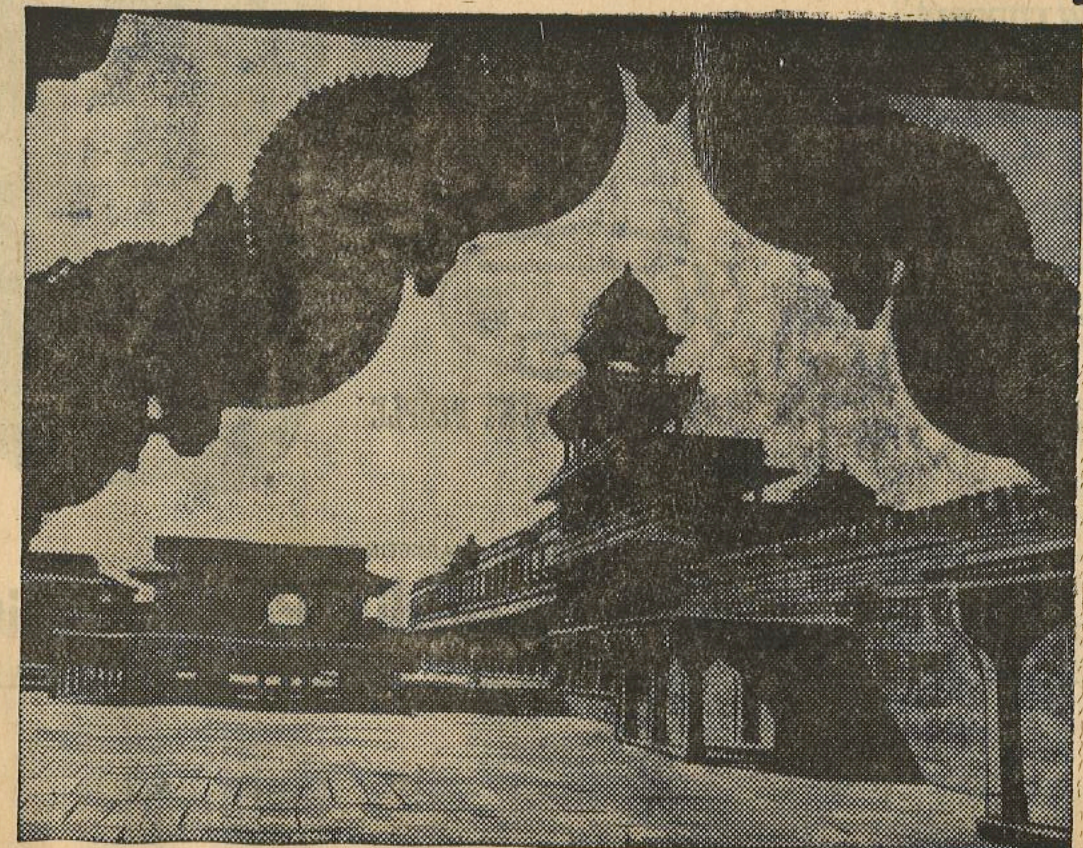


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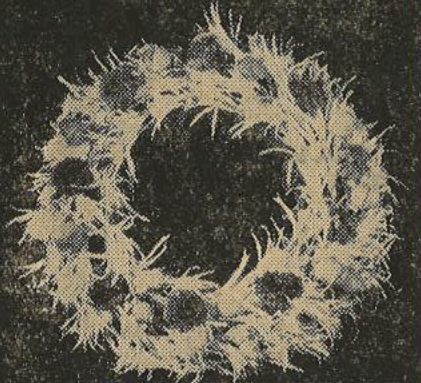
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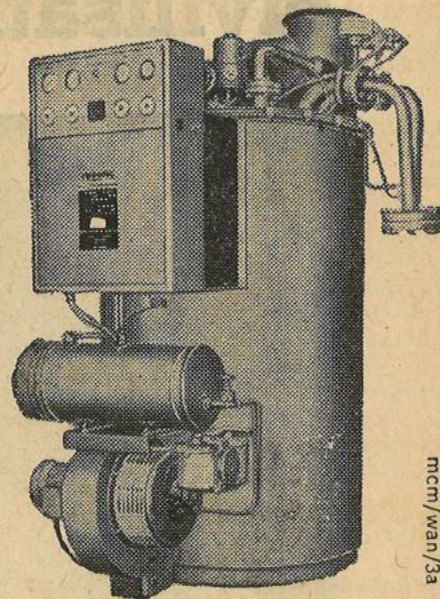
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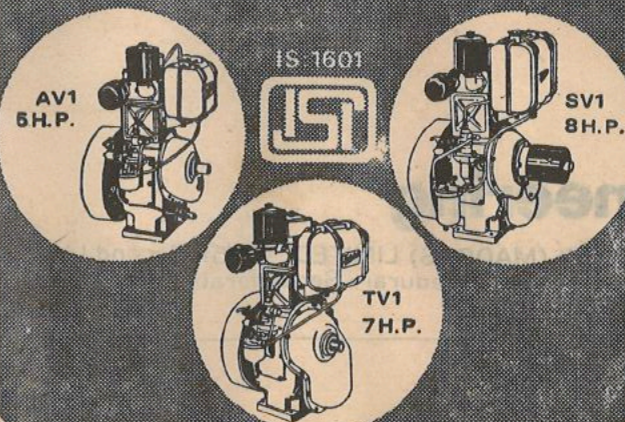
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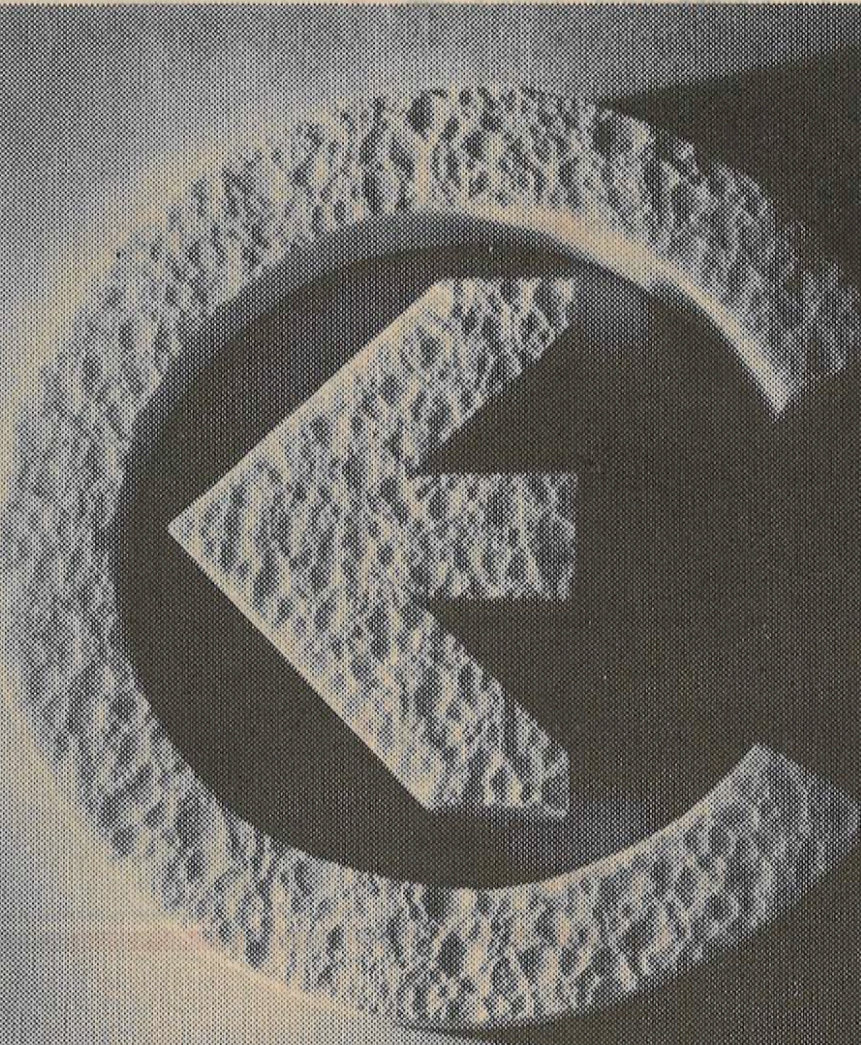


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