

Republic Day issue

HIMMAT

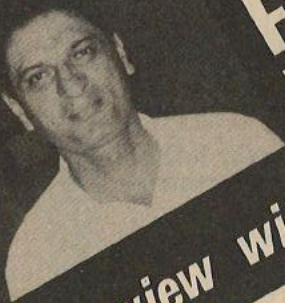
WEEKLY 35p

VOL 9 NO 13

ASIA'S VOICE

FRIDAY JANUARY 26 1973

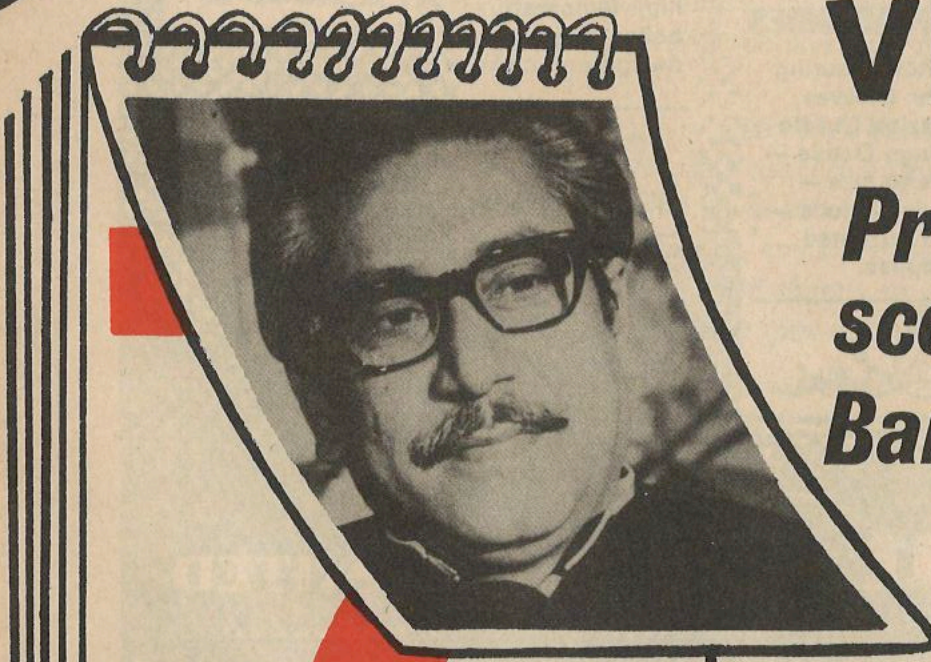
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Interview with Polly Umrigar

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*Pre-election
scene in
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7th MARCH 1973

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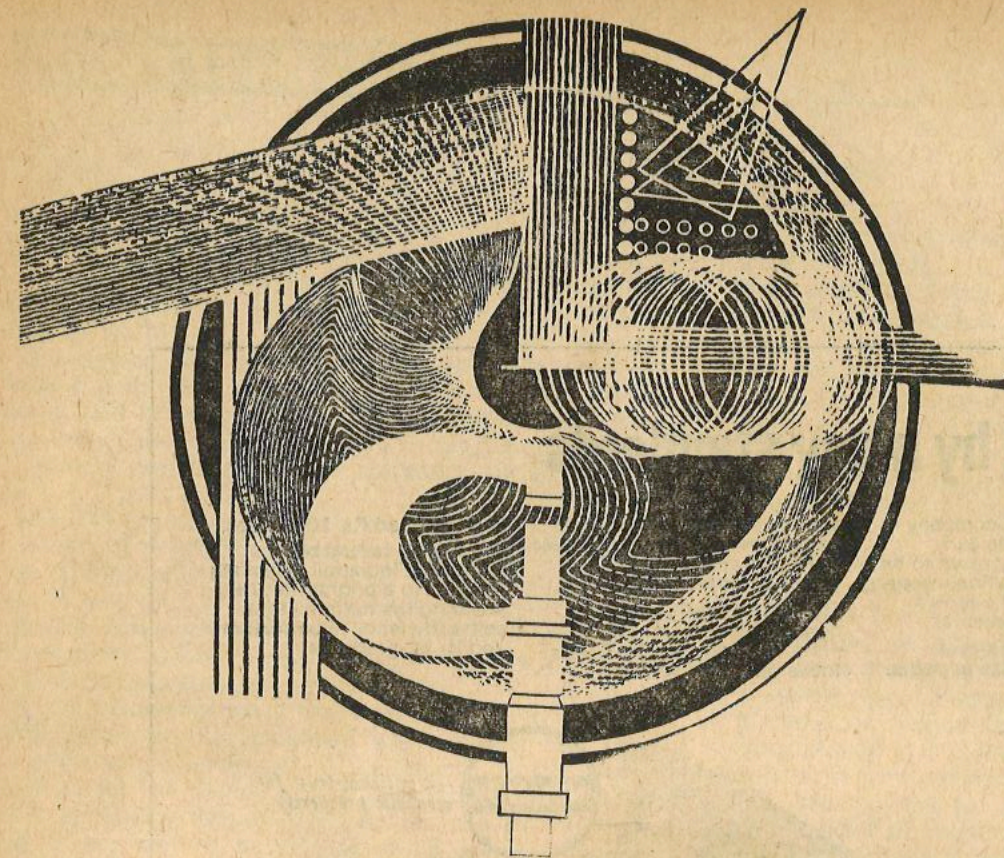
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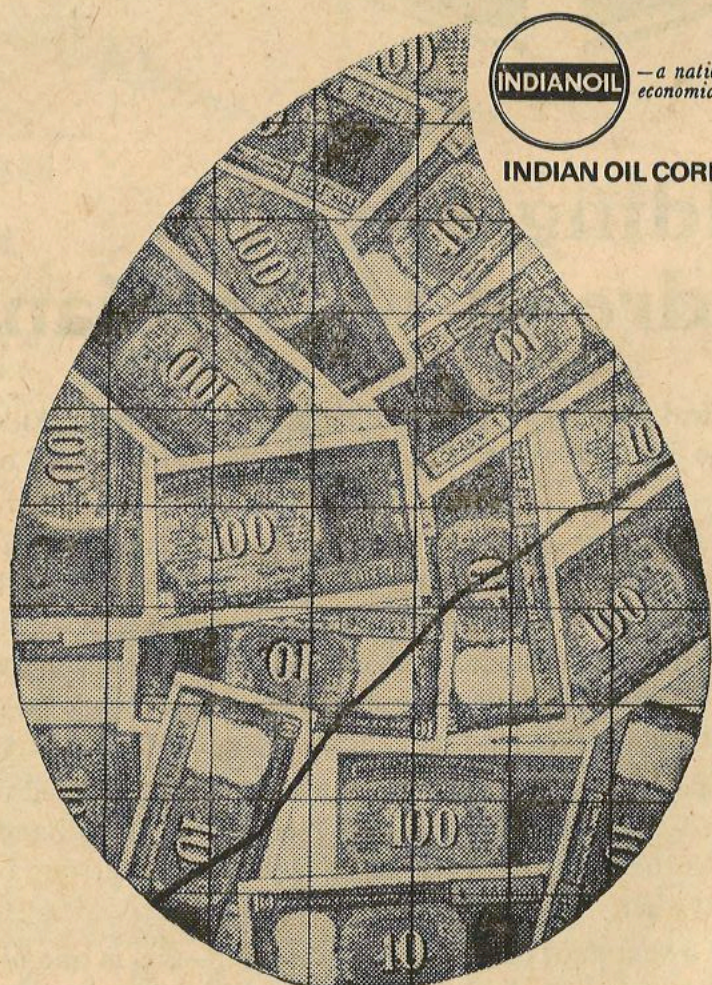
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EDITORIALS

The cost of war

By the strange fate of history Lyndon B. Johnson died the day Henry Kissinger left for Paris "for the purpose of completing the text of an agreement" that may end, to use Richard Nixon's words, "America's longest and most difficult war".

We should not however be too optimistic over the results: America's outgoing Defence Secretary, Mr Melvin Laird, said he would not be willing to predict an end to the Indo-China fighting one, five or ten years from now. "I would never make that assurance to anyone," he said.

At the time of going to press the indications of the contents of an agreement can be summarised as follows:

- Troops of opposing armies will remain generally where they are. It will be a standstill ceasefire.
- All American prisoners of war held by the North Vietnamese will be released within 60 days of the initialling of the agreement.
- The Government of the Republic of South Vietnam will feature in the agreement which means that Hanoi to some extent recognises its legitimacy. North Vietnam will accept the Demilitarised Zone at the 17th Parallel as a temporary demarcation between the two Vietnams.
- There will be no release of all political prisoners held in the South (estimated at 30,000) but as a result of American pressure President Thieu may release 10,000.
- Whatever elections are to be held in South Vietnam will be under the supervision of a National Council of Reconciliation and Concord. But the neutralists will not

be represented on the council. This is a victory for Thieu who has insisted that there are only Communists or Nationalists in South Vietnam.

Such an agreement, reached in Paris and initialled by Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, reflects the considerable role played by the Soviet Union. The details of the Soviet involvement are only known to Richard Nixon and a few other Americans and the leadership of North Vietnam. It may be years before the full facts are known publicly. But a major reason for Nixon's visit to Moscow last May was to further the cause of a negotiated settlement.

Peking also played a part, but considerably less than Moscow. The Soviet Union supplied the bulk of the war material to North Vietnam, thereby not only aiding Hanoi but seeking to extend its own influence in South-East Asia as a check on China.

During the Christmas bombing of Hanoi, Brezhnev hinted that behind-the-scenes negotiations would produce results. If a permanent peace is realised then it will be a demonstration of the continuing influence of the super powers, the USA and the USSR, over the aims and policies of Saigon and Hanoi respectively who both had reservations about the October agreement. It will also be peace won after a staggering cost in human lives. The estimated number of deaths and casualties of combatants in the war are as follows:

North Vietnamese and Vietcong — 922,295 killed.
South Vietnamese — 162,902 killed 436,010 wounded.
American — 56,231 killed, 303,616 wounded.

Mobutu's Delhi visit

It is unusual for an African head of state to be in India for a five-day state visit. This week's visit of President Mobutu of Zaire is nonetheless welcome and probably timely. There is speculation that he may offer his offices to aid in the building of better relations between India and China. Before arrival in New Delhi he had had lengthy talks on the international situation with Premier Chou En-lai in Peking.

Earlier, Minister for External Affairs Swaran Singh was in Tokyo where it is believed relations with China were high on the agenda. With the conclusion of the

Vietnam war the power structure in Asia is ready for change and China may be prepared to modify her hostile stance towards India.

General Mobutu, although not widely known in India and the world at large, has proved himself a capable leader in lifting his country out of the catastrophes of the early 1960s and to some extent reducing the excesses of General Amin's policies towards the Uganda Asians.

It is an important development for the world that African statesmen, such as President Mobutu, play a bigger and more positive role in affairs.

On ways and means

No one who stands to address the masses likes to have stones thrown at him. Few, at any rate, would have the presence of mind to capitalise on them. But that, literally, is what Mr Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, did. He auctioned a stone that someone threw at him when he was addressing a public meeting, and raised Rs 50 for the Anna Memorial Fund of the DMK. (One wonders how much a persuasive salesman could sell rotten eggs and tomatoes for!) But one has come to expect novel money raising ideas from Mr Karunanidhi. Not so long ago he asked people not to give him garlands but to give him money instead.

Another guaranteed-to-pay idea was thought out by the Congress (O). Its members in Gujarat, who are demonstrating against the price rise, have cashed in on

the kite season. Sales, at concessional rates, of kites bearing the slogan "Remove price rise or quit power", have soared. Nearly 35,000 kites sold out in the first couple of days and an order for 10,000 more had to be placed. The Congress (O) deserves to be congratulated for killing three birds with one kite — 1) publicity, 2) a demonstration of their own sincerity about bringing down prices by selling a product at less than market rates and 3) adding something to the party kitty in the process.

The MCC and the Indian test cricketers could raise a small fortune, if they wish, by auctioning cricket balls, bats, gloves (particularly those used in securing catches) and pads (especially those that featured in controversial LBW decisions!).

Briefly Speaking.....

Silence is the element in which great things fashion themselves.

THOMAS CARLYLE, 1795-1881

Banking on welfare

CAN people below the poverty line ever hope to secure a bank loan? Most people would think not but under the Lead Bank Schemes of the Reserve Bank of India, inspired by new concepts of nationalised banking, it is actually happening.

As part of the lead bank scheme the Punjab National Bank (PNB) conducted a survey of a UP district. In the village of Mirzapur they found that of the total population of 5000, 1000 are Harijans who live below the poverty line with an average daily income of 32 paise. They make "baan", a tape used in the weaving of charpoyas and sometimes work as casual farm labourers. Most of them are in debt and are being charged more than 50 per cent interest

per month. They do not even have enough money to buy the "babbar" grass from which they make the "baan" and so are forced to sell their product at throw-away prices.

These people were selected by the PNB and were offered a loan. At first the Harijans were scared and suspicious but eventually 100 of them signed loan applications. Says Mr J. N. Gupta, the area manager of the PNB, "When we visited the village many of the Harijans were sick due to their low level of nutrition. Very often they get only one meal in three days. Now ... employment has been increased ... thereby raising the income of the family."

The PNB is also considering further welfare for the Harijans. One idea is to buy the "babbar" grass in bulk from the Forest Department. Some of the money saved will go into a welfare fund from which things like asbestos roofing could be bought.



"With the fat content reduced in milk, you won't need that chair for breakfast any more, dear!"



No more flare ups

SOME 3000 housewives die every year from stove flare-ups in the three states of Maharashtra, Mysore and Gujarat.

When Gajanan Manohar Pathak, a 48-year-old telephone operator employed by the Poona Municipal Service, heard this he felt compelled to do something. He went to work in his workshop (he has converted part of his small tenement into one). He discovered that most of the tragedies occur when the burner of the stove gets choked and a cleaning pin is used, resulting in a spurt in the oil flow which causes the flame to flare up.

After three months of hard work Mr Pathak came up with a "Filter Nozzle" which regulates the oil flow through the burner as well as filtering the oil as it passes so that no residue can enter the burner and choke it. More heat is generated and the vessels are not blackened. The "Filter Nozzle" is equally effective for scooters and lathe machines. And it only costs Rs 2.50.

Mr Pathak has already won the National Award in 1970 for an earlier invention. He has also won some awards for the "Filter Nozzle". But to Mr Pathak the greatest reward is

"the pile of grateful letters I am getting from housewives all over the state."

Lets build an Alp

SAYS a Swiss friend in a letter to Birbal: "We have had a rainy summer and a sunny fall (autumn). Even now (in winter) the weather is so fine and so sunny on the Alps that snow is being transported from shadowy spots to build hills and mountains so that ski racing can continue."

In Norway too ski-lovers have had to wait in vain for long-overdue snow.

Everyone wondered how the annual Monolitt Cross-Country 15 kilometre ski race, in which even some international competitors participate, could be held. The competition's venue, Oslo's Frogner Park, was as green as it is in springtime. There, as in Switzerland, snow was brought from the high mountains and the race was held.

Birbal

UPON MY WORD!

Find as many words as you can from the TEN letters given below. The words must have four letters or more and must use the letter in heavy type. At least one word must use ALL TEN letters. No proper nouns, plurals or non-English words allowed, nor variations of same verb (eg. tame, tames).

UPON MY WORD
PUZZLE NO. 13

You should find 29
words this week.

(Answer next week)

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 12

Acid, adit, affect, aside, cade, cadet, case, cast, caste, cate, cist, cite, dace, daff, daft, dais, date, deft, diact, dict, disc, dita, east, edict, edit, face, facet, fact, fade, fast, fate, feast, feat, fiat, fife, fisc, fist, idea, safe, said, sate, scad, scat, seat, sect, seta, side, site, staff, staid, stead, stiff, tace, tiff. DISAFFECT

U O A
L C D S
N A S

Danger of violence

Pre-election scene in Bangladesh

by R. M. LALA

A YEAR after independence Bangladesh can count many great achievements. But as it approaches the deadline of the elections the dangers from violence grow each day. Earlier this month a man was found with two hand grenades and

The mandate he was elected to earlier in December '70 was one to obtain autonomy. Costly as has been the struggle, Bangladesh is not only autonomous but independent. One mission accomplished, he has now set out to begin another. It is a measure of his faith in democracy that he has taken the risk of this election. It is not so much a political risk but the larger risk of violence that he has taken. This violence he hopes to control better with the full backing of his people.



MAULANA BHASHANI:
Will he boycott the elections?

arrested near the house of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. If Bangladesh can get over the next six weeks with comparative ease, in all probability the Sheikh will get a solid mandate to implement the many measures he has in mind.

SO THEY SAY

We feel guilty of having created the impression that the "Garibi hatao" was a magic wand which could work a miracle.

MRS INDIRA GANDHI

We have to move fast on the road to socialism. We cannot afford to fail now. People will not excuse us.

S. D. SHARMA,
Congress President

Intuition is for women.

FIELD MARSHAL S.H.F.J. MANEKSHAW

Ambassadors in India have been at their best when they did not follow instructions from Washington.

JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH,
former US Ambassador to India

Mujib's expectations

While Sheikh Mujib often speaks of "foreign agents" and other elements out to undercut his country a good part of his struggle springs from elements within his nation. These come mainly from three sources:

One, the dead wood in his own party. In the struggle for autonomy a number of opportunists have got into the party and he has had to purge some of them because of corruption. There are more he would like to get rid of.

Two, the disruptionists, of whom the best known is Maulana Bhashani. Bhashani's party has threatened to contest all the seats. He is quite an unpredictable figure and, as during the last election, is capable at the last minute of boycotting elections. Meanwhile he is creating as much trouble as Mujib can cope with. His latest is the cry for a Greater Bengal, suggesting that India should go beyond assisting in the liberation of Bangladesh and should oblige the Maulana by handing over West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and the whole North East for a larger state in that area.

Student movement split

The third source of trouble for the Sheikh, and possibly the source that must be paining him the most, is from the students. Students were in the vanguard of the freedom movement. Many paid the price of freedom with their blood. But once freedom was achieved many have found it extremely difficult to get back to the even tenor of studies.

Students always make news in Bangladesh and different factions of them struggle for power amongst themselves. Some are convinced that they should dictate the nation's policies. Mujib went along with them in the early months but soon realised that he had to cry halt. He had to make his stand clear, as a result of which the student movement within the Awami League split in two factions, one of which broke away led by two student leaders, Rab and Seraj.

The Sheikh feels that those who desire to govern should deserve it before they do so and in a speech earlier this month he has called upon the students to launch a campaign against cheating in examinations, thereby attempting to continue his battle to reform society.

The Rab-Seraj faction which has broken away hopes to contest the polls. It is to be seen how successful they are.

Those who know the Bangladesh situation well expect that out of the 300 seats being contested, the Awami League of Sheikh Mujib will probably win about 250. The NAP (pro-Moscow) wing is expected to net about 20 and the rest will go to the Independents.

Whilst Bhashani can draw a crowd, his organisation is poor. Next to the Awami League the best organised is the NAP but its influence is in a limited area and its leader, Professor Muzaffar Ahmed, has little charisma.

Hand grenades at large

The Sheikh has more than the worry of violence in the coming days. It is quite conceivable that the opposition parties, and not only Bhashani, might throw up the sponge and boycott the elections. What would also be sad is that the opposition that emerges is negligible. Sources close to the Sheikh say that he would appreciate a sizeable opposition of about 50 for the development of a healthy democracy.

Violence has been growing since January 2nd when a group of students were fired upon outside the USIS when they began pelting police

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

VERDICT!

THIS WEEK HIMMAT...

IS DISTRESSED that the chairman of the voluntary help committee for checking ticketless travel on Indian Railways was himself fined Rs 120 for ticketless travel and **REGARDS** this an eloquent pointer to the present character of our public life.

IS CONCERNED about the future of Mr Spassky, former World Chess Champion, who is reported to be shunned and ostracised since losing his title and **REQUESTS** the Soviets to be valiant in defeat no less in victory.

MOURNS the death of Syed Abdur Rahman Baffaki Thangal, President of the Indian Union Muslim League and a highly respected religious scholar.

LEARNS that 20 surrendered dacoits of the Chambal ravines in Madhya Pradesh have started preparing to take exams in "Sarvodaya Philosophy" and **HOPES** that they will come out with flying colours.

IS AMUSED at the suggestion of the Yoga World Union that all soldiers, police and students should be ordered to do Yoga to keep peace in 1973 and **THANKS** them for not including journalists on the list.

SUPPORTS the decision to set up 31,000 new village post offices during the Fifth Plan and **SUGGESTS** that this be coupled with more efficient service.

IS SADDENED to hear that 100,000 people go blind each year from malnutrition and **WELCOMES** the fight of John Wilson, President of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, to prevent this senseless and unnecessary tragedy.

READS with a grim face that Gauhati which is soon to become the capital of Assam is the unhealthiest city in India and **URGES** a speedy cleaning up.

CHUCKLES over the controversy as to whether Mrs Gandhi "laughed" when told of the corruption charges against the Tamilnadu ministry and **SEEKS** the help of astrologers to find out the truth.

BANGLADESH ELECTION SCENE — from page 7

not only with stones but even with grenades. Since then there have been more instances of violence than normal, and Bangladesh has already had in the last year of peace an unusual amount of political violence. It is estimated that in 1972, 175 workers of the Awami League alone were murdered. How much larger toll violence will take is anybody's guess. Any attempt to estimate the amount of arms still at large is futile. After a thorough search of Dacca city the authorities felt that about 80 per cent of the arms were recovered but they still suspect that 20 per cent are hidden. Mujib may reckon to take sterner steps against violence once re-elected.

Sheikh Mujib has accused certain powers of conspiring with their local agents to frustrate the progress of elections. Pakistan and China are obviously both active and the highest government circles within India say that the CIA in Bangladesh is fostering anti-India feelings.

The credit side

Whilst Bangladesh has this and many problems to reckon with, it is important to realise the staggering achievements of that country in little more than one year of freedom, among them being:

(1) There was no famine in 1972 as feared by the UN survey, in spite of broken bridges food did reach the remotest villages. India can take some comfort in relieving the distress of Bangladesh by supplying almost one million tons of her precious food grains.

(2) After the initial eruption the fears expressed about the physical

safety of the Biharis have proved wrong. Although the conditions in which they have lived were miserable their lives have been spared. "My people have responded to my call not to take revenge but to live in peace," says Sneikh Mujib.

(3) There has been amazing recovery in which the world has helped, but for which Bangladesh no less can take pride in. India rebuilt the massive Hardinge Bridge which links India and Bangladesh. The Japanese helped to build one of the largest bridges in Asia of 5 km. linking north and south Bangladesh. Economically things are moving ahead in spite of rising prices. Production is going up. About 5,000 fair price shops have been opened and after initial industrial unrest strikes and gheraos have been banned.

(4) Within one year of freedom Bangladesh has got a constitution.

(5) It has shown patience and not rushed with POW trials and so allowed passions to cool.

(6) A valiant attempt has been made with rehabilitation, as described on the next page by two ladies who were recently in Bangladesh.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is to be believed when he says that Bangladesh is the satellite of no nation. It is one thing to be grateful or to feel keenly indebted, but no leader of his immense popularity and stature need be subordinate to any other nation. If Bangladesh is "Sonar Bangla", Golden Bengal, in its Prime Minister it has a pearl of priceless value. One can pray that he sees through the next weeks in peace and accomplishes his ambitions for his people.

Bangladesh — the pain and the promise

"We found the amazing will of a people to build their lives anew"

by Naju Pandole and Freny Lala recently in Dacca

WHEN you first land in Dacca, you find everything peaceful. There are no signs of damage to buildings and everything looks normal. Only after being there for some time does one become slowly aware of the fear, the tension and the insecurity, which has become so much a part of life in this country.

The scars of the year of anguish, 1971, are not so much on the buildings but on the people. The nightmarish experiences still live for many and most homes have had some tragedy or other.

What is most heartening, however, is the amazing will of its people to stand up again and build their lives anew. During a fortnight's stay in Bangladesh we had occasion to witness the rehabilitation of women, men and children.

One of the women's homes which we saw in Chittagong had sewing, embroidery and literacy classes. It was run jointly by the Bangladesh Women's Organisation, the Bangladesh Government and a foreign relief agency. The foreign relief agency supplied the material, the clothes and the sewing machines.

Most of the institutions we saw were furnished very simply and austere so that the people staying in them could return to the villages and not feel out of place. The houses of most of them were looted and their husbands were either killed or taken away. The women earn what little they can to support themselves and their children.

At first sight they look subdued, but as you look again their faces make an indelible mark on you. It is as if a blow has been struck at their hearts which they can never forget. And yet when you talk to them there is a quality of courage which is humbling to many who are more fortunate in this world.

Bravely they say, "All this has happened, but we must go on with life." What keeps most of them going is their children and the tomorrow that they need to build for them.

The children of Bangladesh are among the brightest in the world. They do not have much but their eyes are bright, their faces smiling and in some of the Children's Homes we visited they gave us charming songs. Bangladesh, with all its sorrows, is a singing nation.

We saw a receiving centre for

children, of which there are ten in the country with 500 children in each. These are mixed homes where boys and girls of up to ten years are looked after. Unfortunately there appears to be no arrangement for children's relief homes above that age so far.

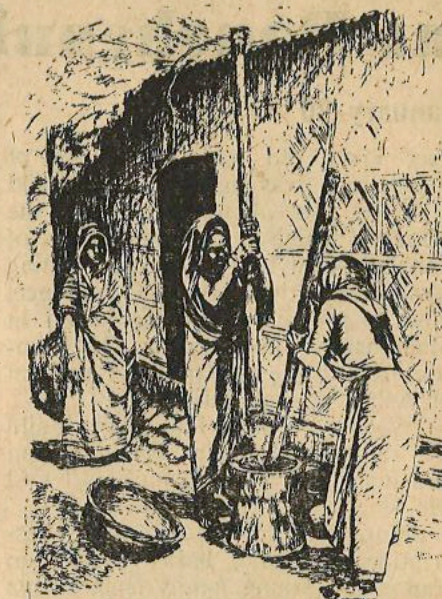
Most of the children are those who have been orphaned during the struggle for freedom or found lost in the streets. The children looked healthy, well cared for, and clean. Again the homes in which they were kept were very simple. Groups of them slept on the floor under one huge mosquito net. The girls were taught how to cook and were well disciplined.

Apart from looking after the children, the receiving homes go one step further. The home we were in at Tong, Dacca, had managed to trace the families of 200 children who were returned to their rejoicing families. When it was found that a family was not in a position to look after the child, provision was made to give the father or the mother the means of livelihood, e.g., a rickshaw or a sewing machine, so that the child may not be inconvenienced. There are still many children in the streets, but as you look at the faces of these children in the homes you realise that they are the hope of their country. No government in the world with such limited resources of material and trained manpower could have done more than what the Bangladesh Government is doing.

Some of the children were victims of the earlier cyclone disaster that struck the delta area in December 1970.

Children adopted abroad

We saw a home called The Infant Rehabilitation Centre in Chittagong run by a Bangladesh couple. The children were of Pakistani fathers who had ill-treated ladies in 1971. The infants are well looked after and 25 of them had already been given for adoption abroad. According to United Nations figures, about 25 per cent of the women who were ill-treated had conceived. We were told that in many cases the molested women resorted to abortion and today most of the women had been accepted in their families. This is a social revolution that has taken place thanks to Sheikh Mujib's repeated appeals that the women were not responsible for what happened



WOMEN OF BANGLADESH: hearts need hope

and that the families should accept them back.

Another major step taken by Sheikh Mujib was the draft Adoption Law. Bangladesh is the first Muslim country to have an adoption law.

One of the biggest hospitals in Dacca is the Sher-e-Bangla (Lion of Bangladesh) Hospital. The section we saw dealt exclusively with rehabilitation of the Mukti Bahini who had lost their arms or legs. There were no wards. The injured were housed in one huge hall and they spilled over in the corridors. There were also a few maimed children. One Irish lady, one Dutch lady and one foreign surgeon were the main technical staff.

We understood that the hospital has got first class equipment for the purposes of amputation and rehabilitation. The Australian, German and the Indian Governments have given massive help in the setting up of this artificial limb centre. Most of the patients were young boys from villages. Of the two attendants one was a Sikh from India and the other a Bangladesh citizen, both of whom had artificial legs and were now helping others with their fixtures.

We saw two very young men trying out their artificial limbs, which are superbly designed, capable of bending at the knee joint and fixed with shoes. They walked with only a slight limp. In the corner was a cobbler making the special shoes for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

I MUST SAY IN THIS U.P. ELECTRICITY ENGINEERS' STRIKE, WE DONT EVEN KNOW WITH WHOM WE ARE NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT.

ISAY ITS A BOOST TO U.P.S CANDLE COTTAGE INDUSTRY

New MRA Conference Centre opened at Panchgani

January 20

THE vivid red and green flag of Bangladesh was unfurled and held high by Mr Anwar ul Haq, the Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in India. At the opening session of the MRA Conference, now in progress at Asia Plateau in Maharashtra, people from 24 countries stood for the national anthem of Asia's newest nation.

"We need a place like this to build the right relationships between man and man, and between nations," said Mr Haq.

Before him sat Asians of all descriptions: a senior industrialist from Iran and a young family from Papua New Guinea, an 83 year-old Chinese educator and Calcutta trade unionists, an expert on milk nutrition from Australia and village farmers from Assam.

Turning to the distinguished Japanese delegation which had just arrived at the new Conference Centre in Panchgani, Mr Haq said: "Here we have a mini-United Nations. But we do not come to talk over our differences, not to quarrel over the points of view, not to hate each other, but to seek the guidance of God and to re-arm ourselves with moral thoughts and ideas."

Mr Haq expressed gratitude for the support that the people of India

and of many nations had given his country during their liberation struggle. Japan, he said, had been amongst the first to offer assistance for the reconstruction of his country.

Former Prime Minister of Japan, Nobusuke Kishi, sent a message to the conference which was read by former Senator Otsubo: "Confusion still continues in Asia in spite of the aspirations of all people for peace and prosperity," wrote Mr Kishi. "Japan's rapid economic growth has, unfortunately, been the cause of apprehension in certain areas. I believe that when the spirit of Moral Re-Armament becomes the motivating force instead of mere profit-seeking for herself, Japan will be able to fulfil the grave responsibility that is hers as an economically prosperous Asian nation."

His Excellency Mr Tianethone Chantharasy, the Ambassador of Laos to India, expressed the hope that "with the help of India and Japan, we will build a truly lasting peace in this part of the world."

"We have signed so many agreements in Laos, but the war still goes on and so does the destruction and killing," he said. "A country like mine seeks not material help but the moral leadership of India. Here in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

'We in Europe will learn from Asia'

January 22

Amidst the blowing of Tutaris (Indian Horn), Mr Frederik J. Philips, Chairman of the world-wide Philips Organisation, officially opened the new conference complex at Asia Plateau. Speaking to the hundreds who had come from the villages and towns around Panchgani and included people from 25 countries, Mr Philips said: "I wish that the spirit from this centre will go to the hungry hearts of Asia just as rain is absorbed by dry valleys. And we in Europe will learn from you in Asia."



FREDERIK PHILIPS

After Mr Philips cut the ribbon, people gathered in the 400-seat auditorium which is equipped with some of the latest electronic equipment gifted by the Philips company. Seated on the stage were the workers, carpenters, gardeners and engineers who had worked on the centre.

Messages for the occasion came from different parts of the world and India. The Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr V. P. Naik, who was unable to be present because of the serious drought situation in the state, sent a message. It read: "I'm happy that a new conference centre is being opened by Moral Re-Armament at Panchgani. I send my best wishes to all participants from India and abroad." Earlier, delegates to the MRA Conference collected Rs 1967 for the Chief Minister's Drought Relief Fund.

Mr Rajmohan Gandhi said, "There is a great future for this continent of Asia. We all know that the first of all great ideas and religions in the world began here. To bring the world on to the right road is the job of Asia. And to fulfil that task is the job of this centre."

HIMMAT, January 26, 1973

Prime Minister of Laos to visit New Delhi

Prince Souvanna Phouma, for 12 years Prime Minister of the small embattled kingdom of Laos, will be a state guest in New Delhi for three days from January 27. He is coming to discuss India's part in the International Control Commission and will no doubt explain to Delhi his kingdom's position in the post-Vietnam situation in Asia.

THE tiny land-locked kingdom of Laos, with a land area of 231,000 square kilometres, has taken an incredible battering during the 30 years of war in Indo-China.

Leading this nation is 71-year-old Prince Souvanna Phouma. He has held the reins of Government almost singlehandedly and with great courage from 1963 onwards.

In 1893 Laos became a French protectorate and in 1954 finally gained its independence as a sovereign state. For some time a three-party coalition governed Laos headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma. However, it broke up in 1963 and since then the Prince has carried the main burden.

The "Red Prince"

As well-known as the Laotian Premier is his communist half-brother Prince Souphanouvong, 60, leader of the Pathet Lao. Both brothers had the same father but Prince Souvanna was the son of wife number one while Prince Souphanouvong's mother was so low in rank that she was not allowed to live in the palace with the other wives.

Both the Princes were educated in France in engineering. The "Red Prince" (Souphanouvong) later went to North Vietnam and worked as an engineer. He married a Vietnamese Communist and, largely with Vietnamese support, began the insurrection in Laos with the Pathet Lao.

The brothers maintain communications with each other and it is known that both of them would like Laos to remain a buffer state between Thailand and North Vietnam. They would both like to see an end to the American bombing of the Ho Chi Minh Trail and other communist-held areas in Laos and an end to the presence of foreign troops. It is understood that at some point they would consider again joining some kind of coalition though Souphanouvong insists on ruling Northern Laos.

Souvanna Phouma, came under right-wing attack in 1970 for his appeal for "frank and serious talks" with the Pathet Lao. In defence the Laotian Premier said, "The Pathet Lao are Laotians like you and me, and we must accept them as such. Our objective must be not to exterminate them, but to seek a political solution to the conflict between us. That is why I am trying to have talks with them." The talks, once begun, however broke down and a state of civil war continues.

The future of Laos is linked closely with that of the Vietnams. Souvanna Phouma's Government depends to a large extent on American military and financial aid (in the year 1971-72 the aid was estimated at \$374 million*) and the Pathet Lao is closely linked with the North Vietnamese military and government. If peace comes in Vietnam its effect would soon be felt in Laos, whether it was part of a general Indo-China settlement or not.

The Plain of Jars devastated

Even when peace comes Prince Souvanna Phouma has a big job of reconstruction and consolidation in his land — known as the kingdom of a million elephants.

One of the areas which has suffered the most is the Plain of Jars in Central Laos. It could have been an economic growth centre. It once had terraced rice fields and its surround-

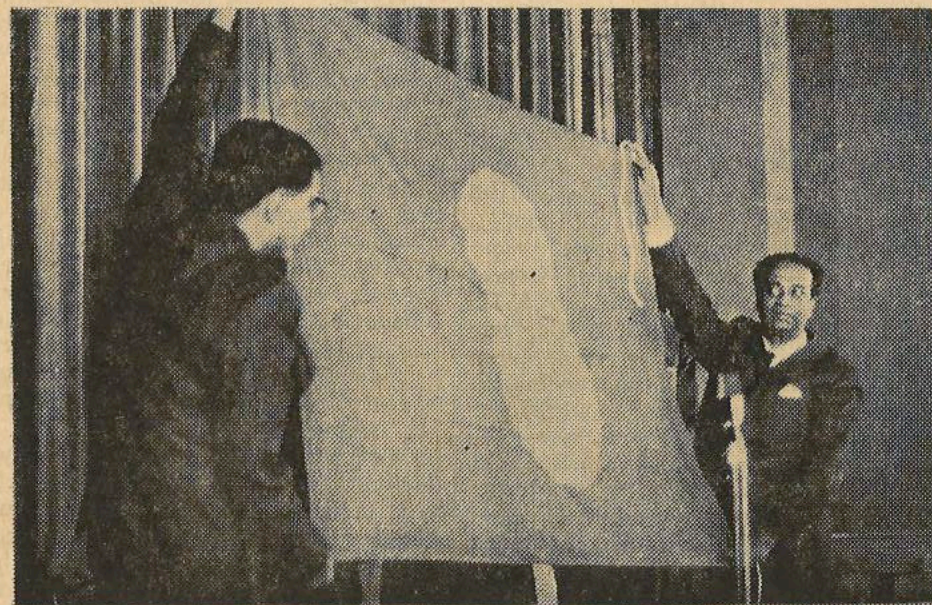
* Report of Senator Stuart Symington, Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA: in war or peace difficulties ahead

ing hill slopes are ideal for grazing. But here is a recent description of the Plain given by "Far Eastern and Economic Review" correspondent, T. D. Allman: "Even if the war in Laos ended tomorrow, the restoration of its (the Plain's) ecological balance might take several years. The reconstruction of the Plain's totally destroyed towns and villages might take just as long. Even if this was done, the Plain might long prove perilous to human habitation because of the hundreds of thousands of unexploded bombs, mines and booby traps."

And so in war or peace the leadership of Laos will be a demanding and difficult venture. Although her population is only three million Laos' challenges and opportunities may be fairly compared to the giant ones facing India. Perhaps in this spirit the leaders of the two nations will be meeting next week.



Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Mr Anwar ul Haq, (right) presents his nation's flag

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Edging out the Russians

CHOU EN-LAI's new open diplomacy is now moving into a global dimension. The aim seems to be the isolation of China's chief rival, the Soviet Union.

Peking now backs Japan's claims for the return of the four islands occupied by the Russians since 1945. The New Chinese News Agency has condemned the Soviet Union's persistent refusal to return these islands. Japan is being constantly reminded of their "common enemy".

What is more surprising is Chou En-lai's statement to Mr Takeo Kimura, the special envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka, endorsing the military arrangements between Japan and the US. Chou En-lai was quoted by the Japanese press as saying that Japan "needs the treaty at present in the light of its relations with the Soviet Union."



CHOU EN-LAI: global diplomacy

The visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Chi Peng Fei, in late December to North Korea for closed-door discussions is an attempt to woo the Koreans away from Russian influence. One of China's major objectives has been a United Front of Asian Communists, composed of Laos, Cambodia, South and North Vietnam and North Korea.

In a bid to counter what the Chinese consider to be growing Russian influence on the Indian subcontinent, Pakistan's army chief Tikka Khan is reported to have obtained nearly all the items he had on his shopping list when he visited Peking last week.

Chou En-lai is expected to visit the island of Mauritius soon, possibly on a three day visit. Mauritius established diplomatic relations with China only five months ago. Yet the Chinese are already building an international airport there. The sudden Chinese interest may be because of reports that Russia is keen to obtain a naval base in Mauritius for her increasing Indian Ocean fleet.

China is actively seeking closer relationships with African nations:

the latest head of state to visit Peking was President Mobutu of Zaire. Though Peking had even provided military aid to the rival Brazzaville regime across the Congo River, Mobutu got a red carpet welcome to Peking.

Chinese Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei is due to visit Cairo in March. One nation the Chinese have made no overtures to is Israel, which should help China's attempts to make friends with the Arab nations.

China is also wooing Chile and supports the 200-mile fishing limit claimed by Latin American countries.

One defence agreement the Chinese have no objection to is NATO. Though the Chinese claim they are capable of dealing with any Soviet threat on their 4000 mile border, they support Western Europe's plans for economic and political unity. In early January, the New Chinese News Agency even quoted, without comment, a West German newspaper as saying that the presence of US troops in Europe was "important".

China has now replaced the Soviet Union as the biggest aid giver among the Communist countries. Most of this aid has been given either in direct grants or interest free loans. One of China's long term objectives is clearly to become the spokesman and champion of the developing nations and edge out the Russians from their present positions of influence.

Respite for Sri Lanka's Press

THE attempt to control Sri Lanka's Press through a Government-controlled Press Council has been halted in its tracks. The Speaker of the National State Assembly, Mr Stanley Tillekeratne, last week upheld the Opposition's argument that it would be unconstitutional to proceed with the controversial Press Council Bill without referring it to the Constitutional Court.

The Trotskyites, partners in Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike's United Front Government, are the keenest to rush the bill through the Assembly. Their leader, Dr N. M. Perera (Minister of Finance) proposed a vote of no confidence in the Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr J. R. Jayawardene, asked whether this was a Government-sponsored motion. The Prime Minister, sensi-

tive to criticism that she is strangling democracy, replied with a firm "No". This made the piqued Dr Perera retort, "In that case, you join the UNP (The largest Opposition party)."

The Prime Minister's Sri Lanka Freedom Party has a majority in the 157-member Assembly even without the support of her coalition partners, the Trotskyites and the Communists (Moscow wing). With the present economic crisis in Sri Lanka, it is difficult to see Mrs Bandaranaike ditching the leftists. The leftists have helped the Government by keeping their own powerful trade unions quiet, despite rising prices and unemployment. But the leftists have used their alliance with Mrs Bandaranaike to gain a respectability they never enjoyed before with the Buddhist masses.

Referendum — Marcos style

PRESIDENT MARCOS of the Philippines says that the results of the six-day referendum show that the people agree with his Martial Law policies and their continuation.

The referendum was not by secret ballot, nor was it the plebiscite he had promised. In nearly 32,000 Government-appointed Citizens' Assemblies, Filipinos raised their hands to indicate whether they liked the policies of President Marcos or not.



THE extending of the Martial Law indefinitely indicates that Marcos does not intend to let go of the country's reins in the immediate future. Under the old constitution, his term as President would have ended irrevocably at the end of 1973.

Under a proclamation, Marcos has now assumed the powers of President, Premier and Legislature. The new Constitution he has instituted ended 26 years of American-style democracy. But when Marcos will introduce the Parliamentary-type of democracy he has promised is anybody's guess. The timing of that depends on President Marcos. But unless he carries out the drastic reforms he has promised, Marcos may push even moderates to take to the very extremism that he wants to stamp out.

Brandt and Nixon again in supreme office

IN small town Bonn, capital of West Germany, and in mighty Washington two men, Chancellor Willy Brandt and President Richard Nixon, last week entered their second terms of supreme power.

The two leaders, elected last year largely on their handling of foreign affairs, have surprisingly similar views on government and its role in the nation's life. Considering the political origins of the two men — Nixon the Republican and Brandt the Social Democrat — this is remarkable.

Willy Brandt, addressing the opening session of the new Bundestag, called for "citizen initiatives" to solve social problems. The main ideal of his policies was the liberty of the citizen and his participation in affairs.

"The matter at hand is workaday liberty. That is where the self-determination of the individual begins, which fulfils itself in the free existence of the citizen and is responsive to the duties and rights of neighbourliness," said the German Chancellor.

In Washington Richard Nixon continued his attack on the vastness and all pervasive quality of government in the United States. In giving a new turn to John Kennedy's now famous phrase Nixon said, "In our own lives each of us should ask not what the Government will do for me, but what can I do for myself."

For Americans his great theme was

individual self-reliance. Nixon has no belief in the efficacy of gigantic government schemes: he has said with considerable force that social problems cannot be solved by throwing dollars at them. He says he wants to tax the people less so that they can do more for themselves. Nixon wants to see a winding down of big government which grew up under the impetus of the Kennedy New Frontiersmen and Lyndon Johnson's efforts to build what he called the Great Society.

But the leadership style of Richard Nixon and Willy Brandt is very different. Brandt, in his election campaign, was constantly on the move through the country in a special train meeting the masses of his fellow-citizens. His campaign posters were able to describe him as "Our Willy" — such is the affection in which he is held by the German people.

Nixon maintained a Presidential aloofness throughout the campaign and never entered into political argument directly with his opponent, Senator George McGovern.

In office Nixon works through a tightly-knit cadre of personal advisers, rather than through the Cabinet, the secretaries of the great departments of government or the National Security Council. Willy Brandt, as a convinced parliamentarian, turns to his Cabinet Ministers for counsel and conducts a much more open policy.



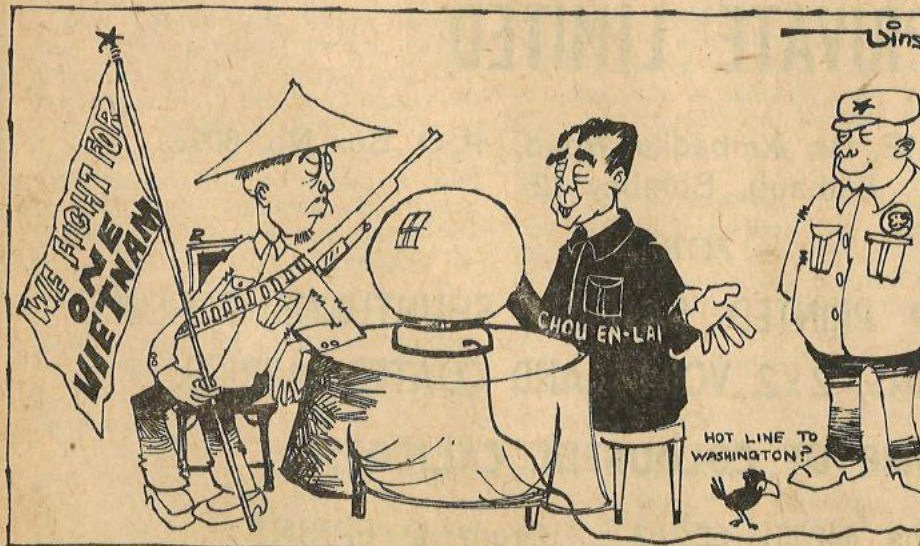
BRANDT AND NIXON: German Chancellor's official visit to Washington in 1970

Brandt's visits to Warsaw and Moscow and the execution of his Ostpolitik avoided the secrecy and lack of national consultation that marked the major strokes of Nixonian policy towards Vietnam, China and Russia.

At home President Nixon faces a Democratic Congress but also a Congress which is preparing to try and re-establish its position in the governing of the United States. Bills are being proposed in the Senate which will restrict the war-making powers of the President and also enable Senators to find out more of what is happening in national policy through a freer and more rigorous questioning of White House officials. If the new bill becomes law only those men who can claim they are party to Presidential confidences affecting national security will be able to avoid Senate interrogation. This would mean that the White House would have to be more sensitive to the views and more needful of the support of Congress.

Secrecy as a way of life grew in the jungles of Washington as more and more American troops were committed to the jungles of Vietnam. It is possible that post-Vietnam America could develop in a new direction under the impulse of a Congress seeking a greater say in affairs and a President who wants to end the era of the everlasting growth of government.

In Germany Chancellor Brandt commented on the new spirit that already blows through German society where the state is no longer "an alien power" but is in "good harmony" with the nation's citizens.



"Sorry, it is not one Vietnam — I see three!"

BEST WORLD PRESS

Rhodesia and Zambia

The new collision is a prime example of racial tightening in Southern Africa. Though small in number and literal effect (their victims are counted only in twos and threes), the guerrillas have forced Rhodesia to a far-reaching step. Imposition of sanctions by Rhodesia has already stirred some public white doubts in the country. Moreover, it mocks Salisbury's objections to the sanctions which the United Nations voted against it in 1965 when it broke from Britain without offering guarantees of eventual majority rule. Some Rhodesian whites even have acknowledged that the guerrillas, far from being the outside provocateurs portrayed in official Salisbury propaganda, have been given aid and comfort by blacks in Rhodesia. It has been one of the myths of white minority rule that blacks liked it that way. Salisbury's sanctions, then, seem bound to intensify the already pressure-laden atmosphere in which the Salisbury Government is trying to prolong and legitimise its rule.

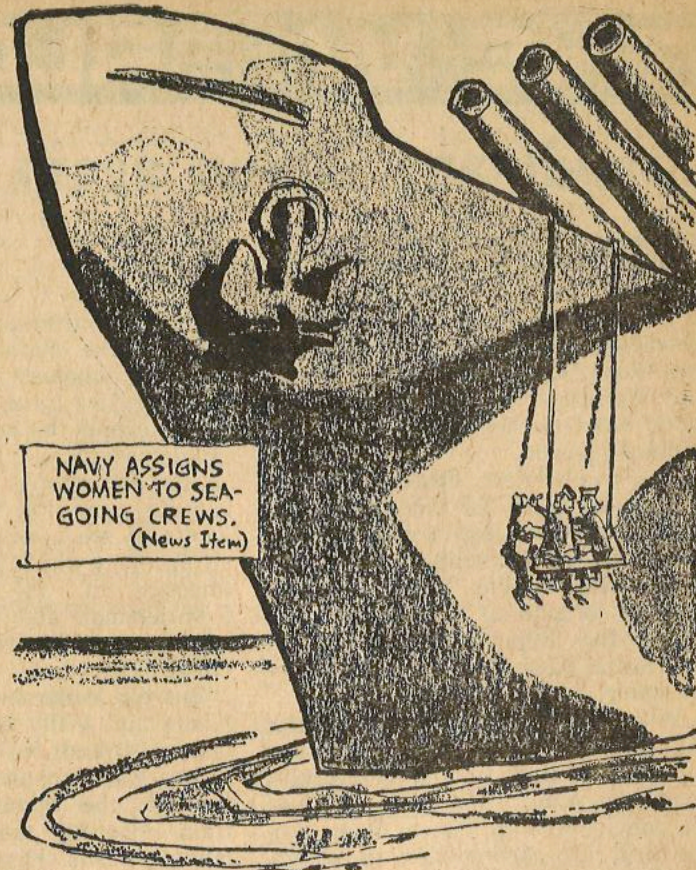
THE WASHINGTON POST

Mrs Meir's diplomatic success

Mrs Meir succeeded in being officially received by Pope Paul VI although the

Pope is known to be opposed to Israel's views on the status of Jerusalem and Palestine. Mrs Meir, of course, stands little chance of changing the basic position of Paul VI. However, her visit to the Vatican, even if it isn't followed by concrete results, is an historic event of considerable importance.

Mrs Meir in any case has added a new diplomatic success to the one brought about already by her participation in the meeting of the Socialist International. Her visit to Paris, though it has raised some grumbles in government circles, has not been unanimously condemned — far from it, as



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evidenced by the tribute paid to her by Gaullist leaders.

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E.E.C.—bold vision and missed chances

FROM GORDON WISE IN LONDON

DESPITE the regrettable abstention of the Labour Party from participation in the European Parliament, Britain's rate of progress "into Europe" gathers momentum. Sir Christopher Soames has got the job he was after — that of "Foreign Minister" of the European Community and Mr George Thomson is in charge of regional policy.

The British Prime Minister, Mr Edward Heath, is reaching for a concept for Europe beyond that of the balance sheet. "What we are building is a Community whose scope will gradually extend until it covers virtually the whole field of collective human endeavour," he told a distinguished dinner gathering in London's Hampton Court Palace recently.

One of Europe's aims should be to become a valid partner of the United States, "strengthening the prospects of peace and prosperity across the world." He would have this aim at the forefront of his mind when he meets President Nixon in February, he said.

Europe should have a common policy in her dealings with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The whole relationship between East and West was now in "a state of flux". He welcomed Willy Brandt's opening to the East, his "Ostpolitik". "Our aim can be simply defined," said the British Prime Minister. "It is to enable both Western and Eastern Europe to make progress without being held back by mutual suspicions or the threat of war."

The reconciliation which had taken place between former enemy countries, such as France and Germany, enabled the Community to "have an important contribution to make towards a better relationship with Eastern Europe. For we want to build as our ultimate objective, a Europe which is not only prosperous, but a Europe which is free, and democratic and safe."

The British Prime Minister in conclusion called the outgoing President of the European Commission, Dutch Socialist, Dr Sicco Mansholt, "the Apollo of modern Europe".

In his turn to speak, the blunt-spoken farmer, Dr Mansholt, reviewed the decade of the Community. He said frankly that it has so far failed to improve conditions for the mass

of its people and "badly needed" an injection of democracy, if it was to bring a new dimension to people's lives. He said that its actions until now had "failed to fire most people's imaginations."

Reflecting honestly on what need-



E. E. C's MANSHOLT:
Common Market short on democracy

ed to be done in the future, the Dutch statesman said, "What we have done so far has not come up to the European public's expectations. People cannot feel that what we have done is anything new: Europe is still not giving a new dimension of life."

He willingly conceded that some sections such as industry, and farming, had reaped great benefits from the developments of the last 20 years.

But he pointed out that integration had led to major social stresses. Disparities in the standard of living between different areas of the Community had become more marked rather than less.

He said that the Norwegians' rejection of their Government's lead to enter the Community was a stern reminder that a great number of Norwegians "simply could not see the point of what we are doing". The Community had developed a "net-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

The week in INDIA

BOMBAY — Eight opposition parties organised a partly successful 3-day "ST bandh" in Maharashtra in protest against the rise in the fares in State Transport buses.

— Agricultural Minister S. B. Chavan was "gheraoed" in his office in Bombay for four and a half hours by more than 50 women protesting against the rise in the price of milk.

POONA — The World Health Organisation has sanctioned \$10 million as aid to India for improving maternity facilities in rural areas.

MADRAS — India won the third Test against England by four wickets.

— The Tamilnadu Government has promulgated an ordinance to nationalise the entire passenger transport in the state in a phased manner over the next five years.

MALAPURAM (Kerala) — Three children have died and at least 175 have been hospitalised due to suspected food poisoning.

PORT BLAIR (Andamans) — A deep-water wharf capable of handling the biggest naval and merchant vessels likely to operate in these waters was declared open by Vice-President G. S. Pathak.

HYDERABAD — President's rule was imposed in Andhra Pradesh following a breakdown of the Constitutional machinery there by the recent agitation over the Mulki Rules.

PATNA — A thirty-seven-day-old statewide strike by about 275,000 non-gazetted employees of Bihar was called off following a settlement with the Government.

TRIPURA — The Tripura assembly and its secretariat will be shifted to Ujjayanta Palace in Agartala, the house of the former maharajas of Tripura.

LUCKNOW — Uttar Pradesh experienced the worst-ever power crisis in its history when a majority of the major generating stations were paralysed as a result of the strike by State Electricity Board engineers.

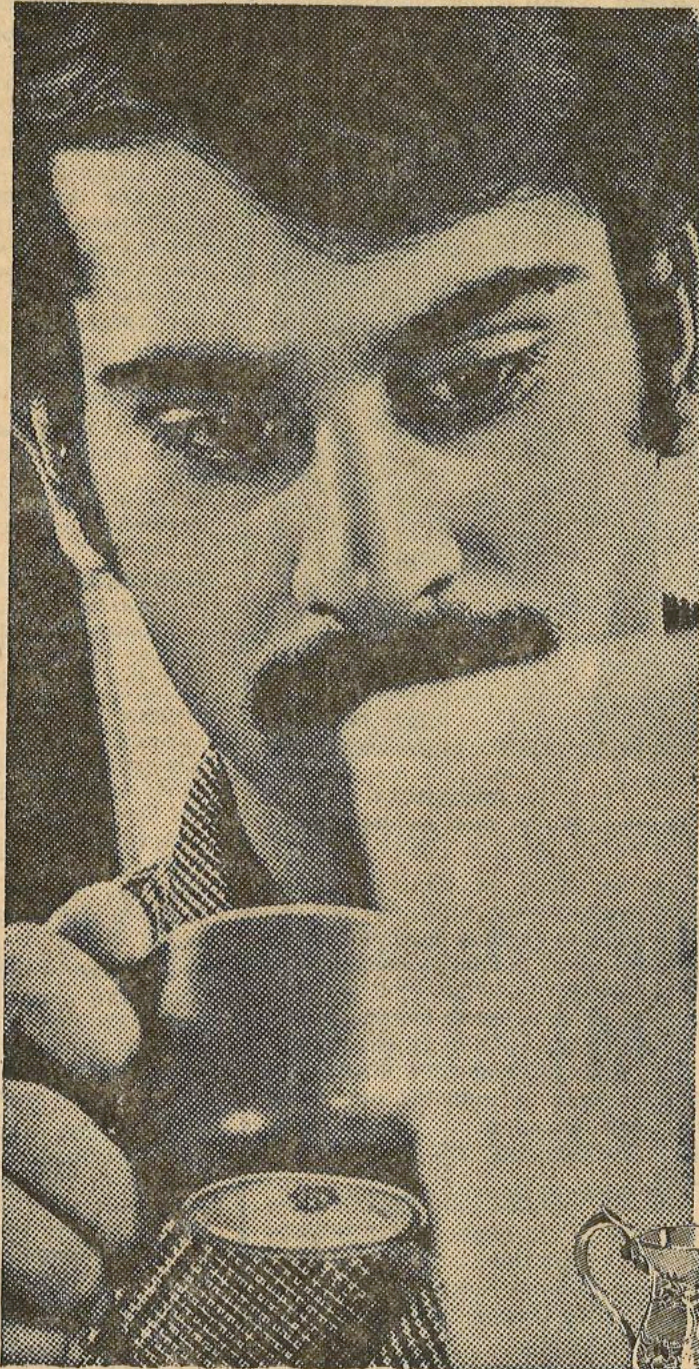
NEW DELHI — The Congress Working Committee has issued a clear directive to the party Chief Ministers to undertake wholesale State trading in wheat from the coming season.

— Lt-General G. G. Bewoor and Air Marshal O. P. Mehra took charge as chiefs of staff of the army and the air force respectively.

— An Indo-Polish trade protocol for 1973 was signed providing for a trade turnover of Rs 130.8 crores.

JAMMU — The founder-president of the Plebiscite Front, Mirza Mohammed Afzal Beg, reiterated that he and Sheikh Abdullah were committed to uphold the dignity of the Indian Constitution in every respect.

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Latin America's tragic misuse of resources

From Peter Hintzen in Brazil, recently also in Bolivia and Peru

LATIN AMERICA has a deficit of about 30 million houses. Of the at least 180 million Latin Americans who have a deficient diet, 50 million live below the starvation line.

It is an underpopulated continent with tremendous natural resources, but the population rises so fast that agriculture, construction and job creation, have to be stepped up enormously just to maintain the present very inadequate situation.

What is the answer? Hardly aid. Because the top classes do not pay taxes, Governments borrow to keep going. As a result even though the continent has a considerable export surplus, the continent's foreign indebtedness rises at an alarming pace.

Chile's President Allende believes in nationalising his country's natural resources. But as Bolivia experienced in 1952 when the Indian tin miners came to the city with their dynamite and forced the nationalisation of the mines through, national ownership does not necessarily guarantee world markets. "A few were rich and most of us were poor," a Bolivian told me. "Now we are all poor."

In 1967 Che Guevara was killed in Vallegrande, Bolivia. His aim had been to conquer power in one of the remotest and least accessible countries of South America and to create, in accordance with a resolution of the Communist Parties' Convention in Havana, "two, three, many Vietnams" in Latin America. According to the analysis of the left, the real exploiter of Latin America and the maintainer of the status quo is North America. As long as the USA is not defeated, the problems of the poverty-stricken South of the Western Hemisphere cannot be solved. Che's action in Bolivia was intended to involve the USA in a war of repression.

He failed. The Bolivian colonel who led the campaign against his small band from many nations, is now General and Commander-in-Chief. But General Joaquin Zentano Anaya has to deal again with a "vietnamisation" attempt. Recently in Bolivia a continent-wide plot was unearthed whereby guerrillas were being infiltrated from all over the continent into the country. One of the immediate aims was the assassination of President Hugo Banzer who had seized power a year ago upsetting the left-wing regime of Juan Jose Torres.

Though guerrillas in Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Uruguay and Ar-



"NOW WE ARE ALL POOR": Bolivian women, babies on their backs, discuss the situation

gentina have made the headlines in the world press, it is unlikely they will produce any change for the better. The evidence is that the violent movements only produce counter-measures and strengthen the status quo instead of weakening it. In Uruguay about 5000 Tupamaro urban guerrillas are now behind bars as a result of President Bordaberry's action to pacify the country.

Out of the dilemma

If money and arms will not bring about more social justice and greater national cakes to be shared around, what will get Latin America out of its dilemma?

"Only the blind or selfish are content to leave the world as it is today. Poverty, wars and racial conflicts require an immediate solution," says an invitation to a Moral Re-Armament assembly for Latin America in the Brazilian mountain city of Petropolis near Rio de Janeiro. People from seven Latin American nations as well as from other parts of the world, are taking part. The conference is on the initiative of port workers and leaders of the one million shanty town dwellers around Rio. These men have experienced a dramatic improvement in their own condition of life as a result of change in their own attitudes and motives. Half of the shanty town dwellers have moved to proper flat buildings following this change. This is why they believe in the effectiveness of a moral and spiritual revolution. In

the light of such a revolution they want to review and help to solve the continent's and the world's problems.

Travelling through eight Latin American countries, interviewing people from the establishment as well as from the anti-establishment, Marxist students and employers, trade union men and professors it is clear that underlying the very visible socio-economic problems are more basic human issues. What needs to be tackled is not just the unequal distribution of wealth, but the indifference of the rich and the numbing hate of the poor. Underutilisation of human resources — that seems to be the root problem. It is most striking in Bolivia where almost 90 per cent of the population have Amerindian blood, are the heirs of a proud and advanced civilisation, but now seem to live "outside history", often disregarded and despised. If these people could be reintegrated, freed from the slavery of resentment, they may become pioneers again.

And as a European I believe that a whole new thinking is required regarding international trade and industry. It has to be faced that the accumulation of economic trump cards in Western hands has produced a situation through which our wealth is sustained by the poverty of a continent like Latin America. According to the existing rules of the game there is no solution. But with a change of motive and perspective multinational trade and industrial partnerships could reverse this situation.

My days with Prime Minister Nehru

by Lakshmi N. Menon, Minister of State (1962-66)

Mrs Lakshmi N. Menon was Deputy Minister of State for External Affairs (1957-62) and later Minister of State for External Affairs (1962-66). She has been awarded the Padma Bhushan and was also Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister 1952-57.

I MET Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for the first time in November 1927 in Moscow where both of us were attending the tenth anniversary of the October Revolution.

At a dinner, in an over-heated hall I was thirsting for water. Sitting opposite to me was Panditji. He pointed to a bottle of colourless liquid and asked me to take it. Innocent as I was about vodka, I poured it into a glass and took a good sip. The liquid seemed to burn in my mouth. I made a face which



MRS LAKSHMI N. MENON:
reluctant to enter politics

amused him very much. I can never forget the mischievous glint in his eyes as he surveyed my despair.

Later, in India, I had occasion to correspond with him about subjects like the adoption of Roman script for Indian languages, joining the satyagraha movement, and for a Hindustani translation of the Communist Manifesto for Virendra Chattopadhyaya whom I had met in Berlin in 1927.

I met Panditji again in Allahabad in 1940 during the annual session of the All India Women's Conference. At a public function he met me and complained that I was too big a person to call on him. So I requested

my friend Purnima Banerjee to take me to Anand Bhawan.

It was a most disappointing meeting. He seemed moody or unhappy over the previous caller. The first thing he asked me was why I did not speak in Hindustani. I confessed that I did not know the language well enough to speak fluently. I thought it strange that after asking me to meet him he should talk in this fashion.

However, after a short spell of silence, I asked him about his visit to China and the Chiang Kai-sheks and the New Life Movement. I prayed that the interview might end. In the end it was over. I am sure he was as happy to get over it as I was to leave him to his moods. The result was that during the 12 years I worked with him I never visited him unless I was sent for, or if I had some work which needed discussion.

In 1952 when my name was announced on the radio as a Congress nominee for the Rajya Sabha from Bihar I was working as Principal of the newly established Women's Training College in Patna. I am a teacher by profession and I loved my vocation. Naturally I was most reluctant to leave teaching. So when in Delhi after being sworn in as a Member of Parliament, Panditji offered me a deputy ministership I had to decline it as it interfered with my college work.

Panditji must have thought that there was something really wrong with me. The same evening I was called by him and he offered me the Parliamentary Secretaryship. I was to be attached to the Prime Minister in his capacity as Minister for External Affairs. This arrangement was to enable me to combine the two responsibilities of teaching and parliamentary work.

I found it exceedingly difficult as my long absences from college interfered with my work. Before the end of the year I had to give up college for Parliament. It was a break I regretted. But life in Delhi was not without its compensations.

After working for five years, from 1952 to 1957, as Parliamentary Secretary, I was offered a deputy minister-

ship. The question of acceptance became even more complicated as I was then the President of the All India Women's Conference for a second term. Moreover, I was insistent that I did not want to work in any other Ministry or under any other Minister. Panditji looked at me quizzically and said, "Alright, I will have you as my deputy minister and see how it works."

Evidently it did work as I never moved out of the Ministry during his time. After the 1962 elections he wrote to me asking me "to help him" as Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs as his health was not good. Thus for 12 years I worked with Panditji.

I value those event-packed years with India's position high in the estimate of the world, her voice listened to with attention and her opinion and advice sought to solve difficult international problems. And what is more, I had the rare opportunity of meeting and working with one of the finest minds and liberal patriots of our country. He saw everything in relation to a great country, an ancient civilisation and a great future.

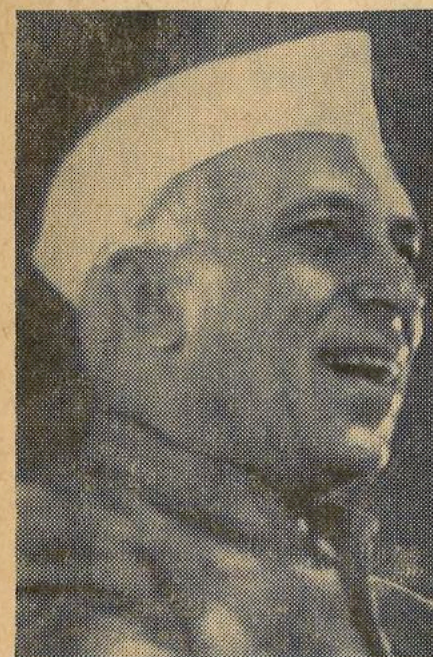
Torch bearer of progress

Nehru was proud of India as a torch bearer of progress for the rest of the Afro-Asian world. His policies at home and abroad were oriented towards making India a great country, a free country with democratic institutions based on the right values of honesty, simplicity and non-violence.

His tolerance was often mistaken for weakness, but a fine mind, compassionate heart, and fearless adherence to truth, are in my opinion greater than the ruthlessness of strong rulers.

It was agreeable to work with him and for him. I found him a patient listener, helpful and co-operative, and I could convince him easily if the cause I espoused was just. The oft-mentioned belief that he was misled by his advisers may not always be true but there is an element of truth in it. There is always a tendency to please the master for fear that his displeasure might affect your fortunes adversely.

Of the four foreign secretaries of my time I found two of them absolutely honest and fearless. One of them, M. J. Desai, is no more with us and the other is happily with us. Both



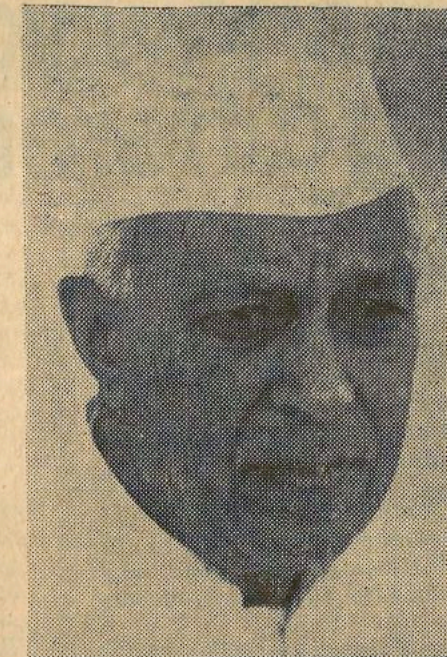
NEHRU THE MAN:
approachable

of them were fearless in their advice and judicious in their assessment of events and facts. If all the secretaries of the ministry were like these Panditji's last years need not have been sad ones. That is by the way.

There was something childlike and unexpected in his anger and reconciliation. Once I expressed my opposition to an appointment he had made. He was very angry with me and said that I had accused him of nepotism and favouritism! I denied both but maintained that the appointment was wrong and there was a lot of resentment in the Ministry.

This threw him off his balance and he said, "Show me the persons, I will take them by the scruff of their necks and throw them out of the window." I could hardly resist a smile. But I simply said, "That would not help." Then he calmed down and we discussed how best we could tone up the administration. Just then his afternoon tea came and we had tea together. The storm had passed. It was sunshine again.

He was more than human in his dealings with others. His belief in the value of human contacts is unimaginable, sometimes as many as 14 interviews were on his day's programme. In between interviews he would dispose of urgent files, issue instructions. Once the Australian High Commissioner asked me how



NEHRU THE STATESMAN:
dedicated, compassionate

the Prime Minister of India found time to meet so many persons most of whom were people of no consequence. But then that was Pandit Nehru at his best and most human.

Any letter written to him produced an almost immediate response and any delay was regretted. His daily mail, immediately after independence, was over a thousand, he said. And in the fifties it was well over 500. Every one of them received a message in return.

Hated ostentatiousness

Another remarkable thing I noticed in him was his willingness to reverse a decision if it was made clear to him that it was not right or just. This was something that most, if not all, ICS secretaries resented.

Panditji hated laziness, inefficiency and most of all ostentatiousness. In his vast vocabulary the word that I most feared was "vulgar". His dislike of President Sukarno of Indonesia was partly due to the ostentatious manner in which he arrived at the non-aligned conference at Belgrade in a special plane with a vast entourage of more than 40 persons. He was not favourable to the idea of our President Rajendra Prasad visiting Tokyo in a special plane. It was an unhappy decision and it had to be reversed in deference to public opinion.

Nehru was a keen parliamentarian and in his element during question time. How he liked to score points over his opponents! He attended the House religiously. On days when there was a debate on foreign affairs, his lunch came to his room in the Parliament House so that he could be available all the time.

He respected the Opposition leaders and parties but he had his prejudices against some. He would always stay to listen to a good speech even if he had another appointment.

Jan Sangh leader Vajpayee's speeches were always worth listening to. They were characterised by the dignity of apt words and phrases and a grandeur attained by references to history, tradition, sastras, etc. Once while listening to a very critical speech of Vajpayee's, Panditji turned to me and said, "How beautifully he speaks." I am sure it was not the content but the style and diction that impressed him.

Children and young persons claimed his attention. They came up to him readily. Once at a function Panditji had to leave the hall early. A young boy rushed up to him, and said, "Chacha Nehru, Namaste!" and ran away. He had great hopes of bringing up a new generation of enlightened youth to carry on the work of nation-building.

He was a delightful conversationalist. At the dinner table his stories about people and places would keep the guests entertained. How he would watch amusedly guests who were not moderate in their eating habits. His council of ministers had persons with unconventional habits, preferences for particular kinds of food. He accepted them with all their peculiarities.

There are many cases when he tried to help young men who were unhappy because their bosses viewed with suspicion their initiative. Panditji was gifted with understanding and tried to appreciate the problems of the staff, their financial difficulties and family disharmonies and help them when possible.

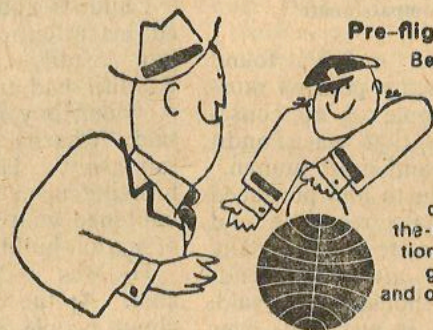
It is not surprising that he cast a spell on the younger members of the staff. Even the chaprasis objected to their being transferred to other ministries. It was a matter of great pride to belong to Panditji's ministry.

Is it surprising that Jawaharlal Nehru wished to be remembered as one who loved India and its people?

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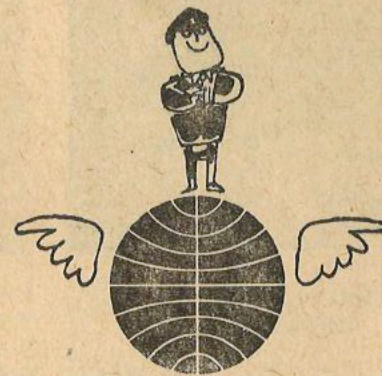
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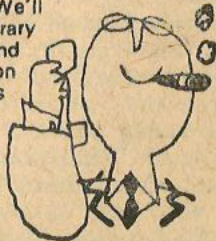


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Viewpoint

New Year resolutions are a waste of time

No, they have a definite role to play

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THE other day while talking about New Year resolutions one of my friends observed that his resolution was not to take any more New Year resolutions. Explaining himself he said that his past experience had taught him that he would break the resolutions even before the first week of the New Year had run out. So now he had taken one which he was confident of keeping!

Another friend observed that New Year resolutions are a senseless waste of time. "After all," he said, "Why should there be all this fuss about New Year resolutions? One should take a resolution when one feels like taking one. A resolution taken, say on May 31, should be as good as a New Year resolution." To stress the point he cited his own experience. He missed three months of lectures in his college by just waiting for the New Year to come to turn a new leaf and to resolve to attend all the lectures!

In spite of all what my friends

have said I still feel that New Year resolutions have a definite role to play. For one thing I feel that it is a sign of lack of firmness of resolve to throw off New Year resolutions just because one breaks them time and again. I agree with the view that one should take resolutions when one

feels like taking them. But then is not the realisation that one year has ended and a new year is beginning; a year that holds before it promises of a dream realised; a desire to do better, the most likely time when one is in a certain way inspired to take resolutions?

Yes, they cause tensions

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No more New Year resolutions for the weak-willed like me. When we cannot adhere to the resolutions we make it surely becomes a waste of time. They more or less become a ritual or rule, honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

My resolutions for instance were many and varied during recent years and broken in a casual way shaming the vehemence with which they were made.

Last year I resolved to look glamorous throughout by growing a thick beard like

the "Kapitan" model. But when my orthodox parents gave the ultimatum that "it's us or your beard", naturally I had to bow out of my desires much to my unpleasantness.

Then there is the case of my "dairy-writing". The main things done during each day were noted meticulously. This habit was broken after the dairy lost itself two days later. This was some four years back.

Again and again I have resolved many schemes during the recent years but discarded them no sooner than they were started.

Now I have decided to avoid making New Year resolutions altogether which will prevent my mental qualms and relieve me from the tensions that go with the responsibility of keeping up resolutions!



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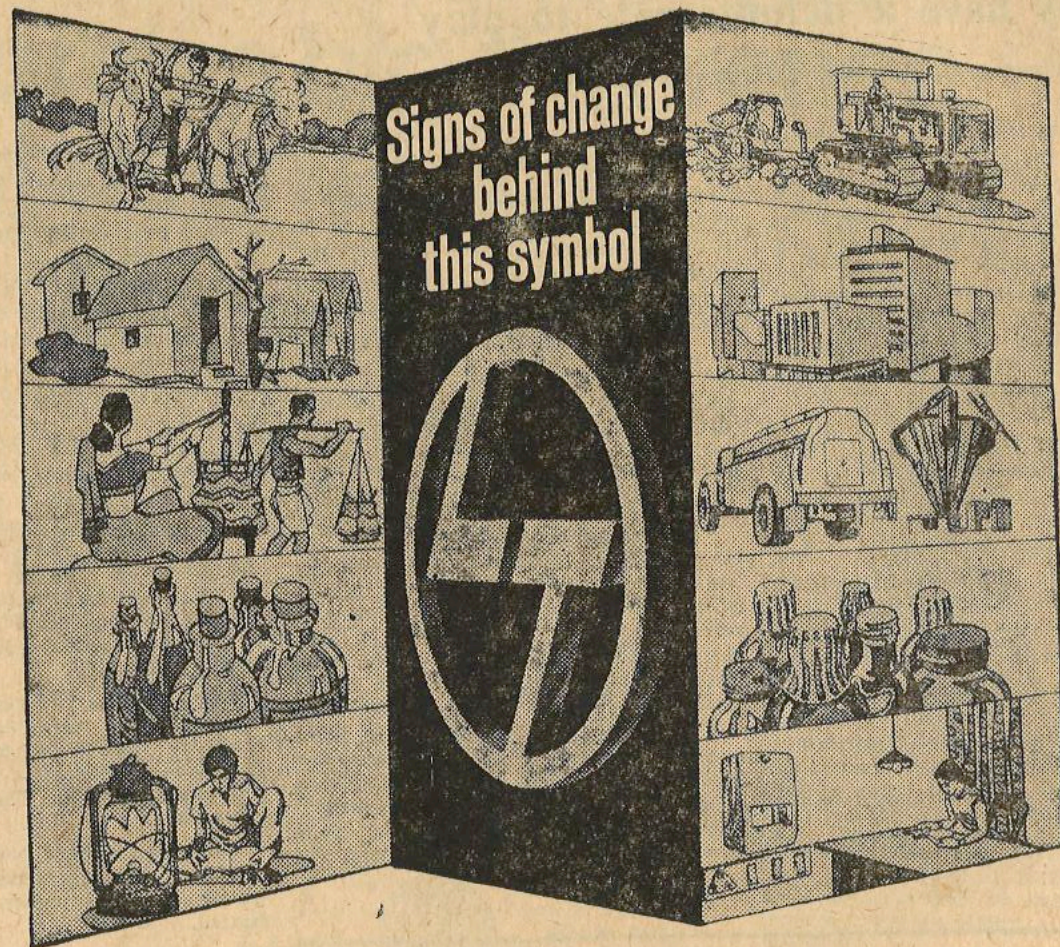
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INS 207

Dr Parulekar—upholder of editorial independence

INDIA lost a fighting editor and independent thinker with the death on January 8 of Dr N. B. Parulekar. He was the Chief Editor of "Sakal" and founder of the "Sakal" group of papers and Chairman of the Press Trust of India.

"Godchi, Poona and New York made me what I am," Dr Parulekar used to say. He was born in the Maharashtrian village of Godchi. His father and grandfather died very early and Dr Parulekar was influenced mostly by his mother and grandmother. Both were ladies of great character and integrity.

He grew up with a deep love of the soil. Even after he rose to the height of his chosen career — journalism, he nurtured with care and love a seven-acre farm on the outskirts of Poona. Another early influence on his life was that of religion. Everyday he would conduct the family

This was a Life

N. B. PARULEKAR
1897 - 1973

prayers, performing "puja". Although in later years Dr Parulekar stopped performing "puja" he treated his work as "puja", an act of worship. Dr Parulekar could not stand shoddiness, laziness and inefficiency in work.

Dr Parulekar had the first four years of his schooling in the village school. Then for a year he had no schooling at all. He was about 11-years old at the time. Quite on his own he decided to go to Poona and continue his studies. When he was supposed to go to visit his uncle, Dr Parulekar ran away to Poona instead. He had just one rupee in his pocket. At times he travelled (ticketless) by train. At one time he even trudged along the railway tracks on foot, so great was his determination to get to Poona. He could hardly afford to buy food. Hungry and weary as he was, the 11-year-old did make it to Poona.

From his boyhood Dr Parulekar was fond of reading and writing. With the encouragement of his friends he started, in his college days, a handwritten magazine called "Vidyarthi"

(Student). He had a very good command of English as well as Marathi and he wrote many articles in his student days.

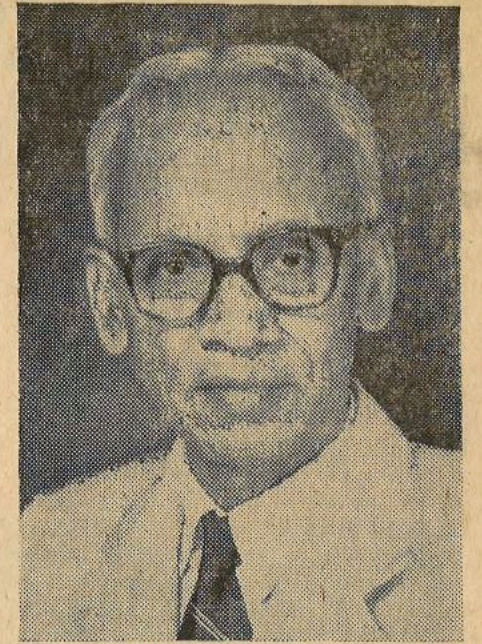
After receiving his BA degree Dr Parulekar worked for a couple of years as the headmaster of the "Anath Vidyarthi High School" before he went to America to study, among other things, journalism. This was made possible by his friends who recognised his potential. There he did his MA and PhD in philosophy.

In America he encountered racial discrimination when trying to enter a restaurant. The proprietor would not let him come in through the front door. But Dr Parulekar was not one to buckle under. "I am not a Negro, I am an Indian," he said and threatened to complain to his ambassador in Washington. Although he knew full well that, as India was under British domination at the time, the British Embassy was not likely to do much for him. But the bluff worked and he got entry. The Negro waiters at the restaurant were so thrilled with his fight that they served him some extra icecream.

He maintained himself in America by writing and giving lectures. On his way back to India Dr Parulekar spent six months on the continent of Europe. While in France he decided to study French. He later married his tutor Shantabai Parulekar, and they have one daughter — Leelabai.

Dr Parulekar returned to India with the determination to start a Marathi daily of his own. But to support himself in the meanwhile he became the correspondent of the "New York World" and two European newspapers. Through his writing he propagated India's struggle for freedom abroad. Dr Parulekar was so attracted to the freedom struggle that he wanted to join the Dandi Salt March. But Gandhiji advised him to stay where he was and fight for the cause. Dr Parulekar did however participate in the Shiroda Satyagraha but came to the conclusion that he could best serve the freedom struggle as an editor. So he set about bringing out "Sakal".

In those days bringing out a daily newspaper was considered a very risky business. His friends earnestly entreated him not to do so, but Dr Parulekar was determined. He announced a competition to choose the name for his new paper.



DR PARULEKAR:
demanding standards

There were those who ridiculed him saying that a man who could not name his own paper could hardly be expected to run it. How wrong they were is proved by the fact that "Sakal" is a flourishing paper and the "Sakal" group of papers also brings out "The Sunday Sakal" and a Marathi weekly "Swarajya" in addition to a Bombay edition of "Sakal".

As editor, Dr Parulekar demanded a high standard throughout his paper. He was against heavy and ornamental language and was for simplicity and pungency. He wanted his paper to be understood and enjoyed even by the "tengewalla" and the milk man. He was particular about printing errors and blurred blocks. He would read every letter to the editor that came into the office, often drawing inspiration for editorial themes from them.

He believed that to run a paper one had to be independent. To this end he set up his own printing press and block-making department. He had his own generator installed so that his paper was not affected by any power cuts. To free himself from domination of any kind by big advertisers he launched the small advertisements scheme. He promised when he first started the paper that "Sakal" would never be the mouthpiece of any party or person. This he stuck to faithfully.

He started training courses in journalism and many responsible men in newspapers, news-agencies and ad-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

Did beings from outer space father humanity?

CHARIOTS OF THE GODS? by Erich von Daniken; Corgi Books (UK); £0.35.

WHAT possible explanation accounts for a huge block of stone in Peru the size of a four-storey house, weighing 20,000 tons, complete with steps, ramps and decorations — and then turned upside down?

How can we explain electric dry batteries, which work on the galvanic principle, dating from very ancient times which are on display in a Baghdad museum?

In "Chariots of the Gods?" Erich von Daniken takes a fresh look at the ancient mysteries of the world. His theory is that in the earth's remote past, our planet was visited by beings from outer space who perhaps fathered humanity.

The author goes to many historical, scientific and mythological sources for his information. He takes specific incidents from the Bible and interprets them interestingly. Here is a sample: "We are given a very exciting account of the catastrophe in

Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis XIX, 1-28.

"The suggestive urgency, the speed with which they (the angels) drove the Lot family on, makes us think." When Lot argues with the angels, "they say that they cannot do anything for him if he does not go with them. Let us suppose that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by a nuclear explosion. Those who were to escape it were told to stay a few miles from the centre of the explosion in the mountains, for the rock faces would naturally absorb the powerful, dangerous rays."

Mr von Daniken even quotes from the Indian epic, the Ramayana. "At Rama's behest the magnificent chariot rose up to a mountain in cloud with a tremendous din".

There are photographs and information in the book about many cave drawings which portray men with headgear similar to the astronauts of today; a relief engraving in a Mexican temple dating back to very ancient times shows a human being sitting in what indisputably resembles a



rocket (flames issuing from the bottom end), manipulating a number of controls. (See picture above.)

Mr von Daniken goes to painful lengths to present his case. And his book makes fascinating reading. Not just because of the material and research he has put into it, but because if what he proposes is proved correct, then many of the beliefs and set ideas which have ruled us for centuries will be rudely shattered.

Some people may view "Chariots of the Gods?" with scepticism. It may surprise them that the author admits to being one. But he says, "The positive thing about the sceptic is that he considers everything possible!" **Sanjoy Hazarika**

India poised for final victory — interview of Polly Umrigar

POLLY UMRIGAR, India's Former Test cricketer, was interviewed for HIMMAT by Satish Shah immediately on his return from Madras.

Q: Would our victory at Madras have been possible without Pataudi and Durrani?

A: I would say that the comeback of Pataudi is a privilege for Indian cricket, rather than for Pataudi himself. Pataudi was a class by himself at Madras. The way he played in the first innings, sending the bowling all over the ground was a real sight. His aggressive knock of 75 paved the way for our sizable score of 316. It was his solid innings, with Durrani's adventurous batting, that played a vital role in registering a victory for India.

Pataudi's playing defensive cricket in the second innings might have shocked people expecting sixes from him, but let me say it was the most responsible attitude that he could have managed. It might have troubled India if he had been aggressive at that stage.

And let us not forget Durrani whose attacking approach with those glorious sixes restored our confidence and brought India out of trouble when four of our best batsmen were back in the pavilion. Bravo Pataudi! Bravo Durrani!

Q: Prasanna's gallant performance in bowling and batting helped India a lot in the victory. What would you say about it?

A: Prasanna was just superb at Madras. We can say that he was at the height of his career. It is our great luck that in Prasanna we have a world class off-spinner. No amount of praise anyone can offer can be adequate for what Prasanna did, both in bowling and batting. His superb knock of 38 helped India gain that match-winning lead in the first innings.

It was not a mere innings of pulling your bat here and there, it was a well-judged game. In bowling he toppled England with 4 wickets in 5 runs on the afternoon of the fourth day — the factor responsible for the victory.

Q: Comment on England skipper Tony Lewis's captaincy.

A: Tony Lewis deserves credit for the magnificent fighting spirit he has created in his team. When he was selected to lead the England side many were critical saying that he was

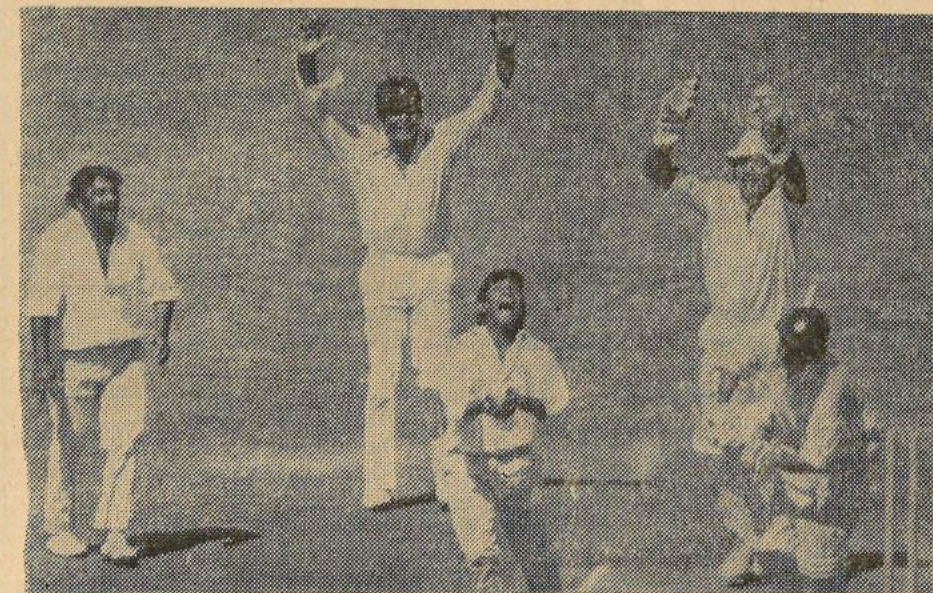
leading a second rate team. However this team has proved to be very nearly equal to the Indian team. It is a close tussle.

That Lewis did not give up until the last ball, when it seemed totally hopeless, shows the fighting powers

it was time for Denness to use a little aggression.

If two of England's batsmen play a solid innings, together attacking our spinners, I am sure they can pile a stock of runs making it difficult for India to win.

Q: Wadekar overbowed Bedi and Chandrasekhar instead of using Prasanna on the third and fourth



Chauhan throws the ball in the air after catching Lewis off Bedi photo courtesy 'Sportsweek'

he has brought with him. His field placing and handling of bowlers during the final stages of the game were praiseworthy. It was his hard luck that they did not have another 30 to 40 runs to their credit otherwise he would have changed the story.

Q: What are your comments on the superb batting performance of Keith Fletcher and Mike Denness?

A: It was a glorious innings by Fletcher and Denness. Except for them England's batting proved to be brittle. In fact it was Fletcher's aggressive knock of 93 that helped England reach a total of 242 in the first innings. In contrast to Fletcher, Denness played a solid innings. Denness seemed quite confident against our spinners except Prasanna. But his lack of aggression did not help England. England's batsmen make one common mistake in not coming out of the crease to attack the spinners when the ball does not turn much. When Chris Old got out

day. Our spinners are our only asset. Isn't it bad to overuse their energy in this way?

A: Our spinners are our only asset. Yes, you are right. The spinning trio of Bedi, Chandra and Prasanna have the genius to upset the world's greatest batsmen. Chandra bowled excellently with Bedi in the first innings. But making a world class spinner overbowl is no good for us. Wadekar should have brought Prasanna in on the third day evening when England was not in a good position, especially when it was apparent that Denness was uncomfortable in facing Prasanna and Fletcher was already out. England would have been finished had Prasanna been brought in. Even in the pre-lunch period on the fourth day Prasanna would have proved fatal.

Q: What do you say about the fielding of the two sides?

A: Both the teams fielded well. It

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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The river's delusion

by Rajaji

"ALAS, my end is near", thus wailed a river like an old woman. It was a big river.

"How happily did I grow! I grew a great length of miles and miles, slipping down the mountain, leaping and running. The end is now nearing me", thus the river shed tears. The tears of a river are plenty indeed! It wept close to the sea. It felt, entering the sea, that its life would be over.

The river is not the same every moment. We immerse and bathe in it. The water, when we dipped into it, is not the same at the next moment. Fresh water begins to flow; again and again fresh water. Thus the water which was there does not remain the next moment. Still, we give it a name in the belief of its permanence. The river is just similar to the drops from the clouds on high. We never christen the rain drops. We notice clearly the rains coming down as well as their disappearance. The river does likewise. The water particles remaining here at this moment no longer find themselves at the next. Still, witnessing the river bank, sands and the trees by the side, we think the river is also immobile. The river felt in the same way as it reached the sea, and cried "Alas, my life has ended!"

Our life and body are like the river's. What was found yesterday does not exist today. What is found today does not last on the morrow.

However, we believe still the body to be permanent. It is a different but profound matter. Let us now turn to the weeping river.

The river has entered the ocean. Its separate existence has finished. It has become one with the sea. The water particles have not been lost. Only the delusion is broken. The river thought it was a separate thing. It was delusion; mere ego.

Every particle of running water en-

COMMON MARKET — from page 15

work of official channels" which the man in the street can make nothing of.

"He knows that important decisions — which affect his own immediate affairs — are being taken at a European level, but he does not know exactly who takes them, or who has to carry them out, or how," Dr Mansholt said.

Civil servants meet and discuss for months and months. A draft instrument is prepared. The statesmen confer and reach agreement "usually in the middle of the night".

But there is not a real sense of decision-making by the ordinary man. He does not feel he has a part.

The outgoing President felt that this injection of democracy could only come when political movements are organised at a European level as well as the civil service. He felt that industry and business had be-

ters the sea and becomes merged with it. It has not ceased to exist. The river's appearance alone has changed. Water has mixed with water. It has reached the source of its life again. The sun's universe-embracing hands—thousands of them—have lifted the particles above, and when the sun became full with them, pushed them down here to below.

"Dear river, weep not", we shall say and gain wisdom. Death need not be feared; It need not make us sad. God becomes the all-embracing sea. Why then should we be afraid of reaching it? Why all these tears?

Courtesy of "Swarajya", January 6, 1973

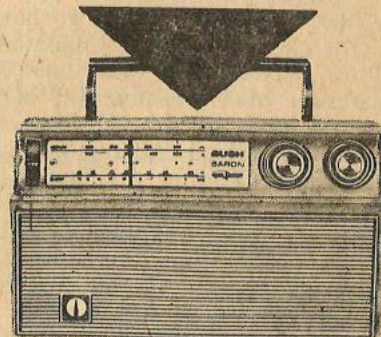
gun to get the point, but that political parties and trade unions were "trailing miles to the rear".

"The Sunday Times" correspondent in Brussels, who has reported on these affairs for the last decade, said in a BBC interview that a number of the present Community members welcomed the inclusion of Britain because "everybody in Britain has been a secretary of something or other at some time" (i.e. secretary of some club or society or trade union or something larger). There is a great tradition and habit of taking responsibility. He felt that this tradition would be needed and would be welcomed in the Councils of the Community.

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THIS INDIA

CRIME UP IN THE CAPITAL

DELHI in winter normally gives you a fillip. The weather is bracing. The golden and friendly sunshine soaks in and warms the bones. At any time of the year Delhi can cast a spell over you with its aura of the past, atmosphere of the present and promise of the future.

But coming to Delhi after a while, I have sensed a callous streak emerging in its people. Perhaps it was always there but it is more apparent now. You start off on the premise that the other person is out to cheat you, be it the scooter man, the hawk, the vegetable seller.

An acquaintance, a frequent traveller to and from the airport, took a taxi. He knew that the fare from the airport to his home was Rs 9.10. Since the taxi meter touched this figure about two miles from his destination, he asked the driver, "Sardarji, the meter has been advanced hasn't it?"

"Ha ji," replied the driver coolly, "but only a little just like 'atte main namak' (salt in flour)." The amount came to Rs 11.40.

It has now become difficult for women to go out unescorted after dark or even during the day in isolated parts of the city.

Another disturbing feature of the capital in the last weeks is the increase in crime. Each day brings fresh news of incidents of people being held up at knife point and stripped of their belongings or stabbed if they offer any resistance. These things impinge with a greater impact when such an incident happens to you or to people close to you.

My brother was going to college at 11.30 am. He was approached by a tall and well-dressed stranger. Conversation (in English) ensued about the brilliant performance of Pataudi since my brother was carrying a pocket transistor listening to the commentary of the Madras Test. A couple of minutes later the stranger pulled out a knife and demanded, "Hand me your transistor."

For 10 seconds my brother walked on as if he had not heard. Then, as the stranger repeated his threat, he had the thought to run. This he did. At the end of the lane, there were three people standing. He enlisted their help. But by this time the stranger had disappeared.

What is happening to the capital city? These developments are sad. But the saddest thing of all is the response of people who after discussing only shrug helplessly and mutter, "What can we do?"

Keerja Choudhury

HIMMAT, January 26, 1973

DR PARULEKAR — from page 21

vertising agencies owe their initiation to journalism to Dr Parulekar.

He believed that an editor should be a social worker in the true sense of the word. He used his paper to fight for issues that concerned the public. The most recent service he rendered the people was to launch a bullock adoption scheme whereby cattle from a famine-hit area could be looked after by those in a position to do so until the famine ended.

A prominent member of the Indian

and Eastern Newspaper Society, he was honoured with a D. Litt by Poona University. Dr Parulekar was a fighter for press freedom both in the days of the British raj and until he died.

The outstanding impression he leaves is of a man who had something to say and do and said and did it. If conditions were not favourable he just "made" them favourable by his drive, daring and determination.

P.S.K.

MRA CONFERENCE — from page 10

Panchgani I see something new for my country, a lighthouse to light the sufferings of the people of the world."

Mr K. E. Beazley, Australia's new Minister for Education, believes the conference at Asia Plateau could create the climate of sanity that is basic to solving the problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and war. In a message conveyed to the conference by a senior civil servant from Canberra, Mr Beazley said: "India's foreign policy can be a source of

mercy for the world. India can speak truth to power, and compassion to need. It has done so, within the last 15 months."

Seven people from Papua New Guinea, a country which will gain its independence from Australia in the next year, are attending the conference. Mr Vuatha Kapa, 100 metres champion of the country, presented the new Papuan New Guinean flag "on behalf of my people — black, brown, yellow and white."

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the artificial legs. At present there are facilities to fix only the legs. Those without arms will have to wait

It was moving to see one injured Mukti Bahini with both arms amputated attempting to draw or write with his right stump.

In all the homes we visited the memories of what had happened were fresh, but there was little trace of self-pity. On the contrary there

was an amazing will to make good.

One lady whom we met in Chittagong came from a distinguished family. Her husband had been killed and her eldest son was taken away. "I go mad thinking whether my son is alive or dead. Some say that he has been taken to West Pakistan. Others say he has been killed. But there is no evidence he is dead and no one has found the body. I have got a younger son and I have got

to live for his sake and think for him."

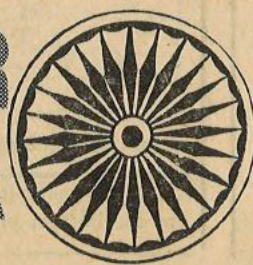
What has been done on a material level for the people is amazing, considering how shaken the country was when it became free just over a year ago. But beyond the material are the scars on the spirits of people that need healing and their hearts which need hope. We returned with confidence that the brave women of Bangladesh can be blessed with both these gifts.



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was in India's favour because we held more important catches in England's second innings and that brought us the victory. It is very well known that catches win matches. Solkar was the most outstanding and threatening to the batsmen in his position at forward short leg and this helped Chandrasekhar a lot in getting wickets. Had Wadekar set an attacking field to Fletcher and Denness on the third day, the match would have been in India's hands on the fourth day.

Q: What do you think about Pat Pocock's bowling performance?

A: Pocock bowled magnificently. Here is a bowler who bowls with intelligence. He was spinning the ball well on this not very responsive wicket. He gave the ball a lot of air, fighting each delivery superbly, troubling the Indian batsmen particularly on the second day.

It was his sheer hard luck that as many as three catches were dropped but still he went on bowling like a lion-hearted bowler, putting his heart and soul in it. It would have been disastrous for India if Pocock had been as equally well supported by the fielders.

Q: Can you predict the future of this series of tests?

A: Looking in the future, as far as I know the Kanpur wicket is a dull wicket. In any other case I would have straightaway said that it will end in a draw. But then Delhi's wicket is also dull and we know what happened. This series has been the most exciting one so far and both sides have a tough bunch of stock-makers and spinners of class. So I would say it is just like the game of tug-of-war. The side that pulls harder wins. In Bombay the wicket usually helps seamers. If there is enough grass on the wicket then Arnold is an intelligent bowler who can trouble the batsmen on a wicket with grass. Both the teams have tremendous fighting powers and therefore it is going to be very exciting in the next two tests.

Q: Suppose that you have to select three players to play in the World Eleven out of the 15 announced for Kanpur, whom would you select?

A: When you ask me to select for the World Eleven, you really put me in trouble. You must have known

by now that the Indian Selectors face a great task selecting eleven for the Indian team. After our twin triumphs over the West Indies and England Indian cricket has reached its height. Still there are many youngsters knocking at the doors of Indian cricket.

But when I have to select for the World Eleven the first one to come in is of course Pataudi. He has proved himself at Madras and that

is all he needed to restore his confidence. We have the trio of spinners Chandrasekhar, Bedi and Prasanna at our disposal. I would choose Bedi for certain. He is a great bowler and his class cannot be judged by the number of wickets he claims. In Prasanna we have an off-spinner who is at his best. Prasanna would definitely get my recommendation over Chandrasekhar. About Farokh Engineer, he stands a chance definitely if Alan Knott is not there. Knott is the best wicket-keeper batsman that international cricket has at this stage.

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Letters

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF INDIA

AFTER a flight from London which had been delayed for two days by fog, I arrived thankfully at Madras. But there was no sign of anyone there to meet me. As I sat in the busy airport uncertain what to do, a stranger who had noticed I was looking lost, came up and asked if he could help. He was a busy Madras doctor who found out the situation, piled my cases into the back of his car and drove me to my destination. It was my first introduction to Indian hospitality.

I learnt more about it in the days that followed. A lady who was visiting Madras, invited me to stay in her home if I ever went to Delhi. Another served us a delicious South Indian meal in her home, selecting the dishes she thought would suit unaccustomed palates.

I lost my heart to the children here, bright little sparks whose big eyes inspect you. I watched them receive great care from fathers and grand-fathers as well as their mothers. Perhaps more than anything else in this lively and diverse country, Indian family life impacts the stranger. I observed the ties of trust, respect and responsibility that link young

and old. I learnt that the aged do not have to face the loneliness of an old people's home.

In many Western countries today family life is splintering and the old die alone. Would it not be worth our while seriously to study and learn from India's millions of families?

MARY MEEKINGS, Presently in Madras

PROFESSORS SHOULD NOT STRIKE

DROUGHTS and floods have done havoc. Famine is stalking in many parts of the country including the state of Bihar. Despite the efforts by the Government to check them prices are daily increasing.

In this situation it is sad to notice that we, the citizens, instead of co-operating with the Government to hold the price line are adding to the problem by demanding more and more pay. Even responsible people like college professors are on strike, or threatening to go on strike (as is the case in Bihar) demanding a few more rupees to their present monthly salary, in fact, much more than the annual income of the vast majority of people in Bihar. Reading about these professors' demands, one wonders whether they are at all socially conscious!

What the nation requires now is hard work. It is time for us to stop striking and start working hard, even for a smaller salary. I hope that the college professors will set an example.

ANTONY THOMAS, Ranchi

WAITING FOR HIMMAT

I do not get furious when my girl friend does not turn up at the appointed hour. But I do grow furious when my HIMMAT does not arrive in time. May be it is not your mistake that HIMMAT reaches this north-eastern corner of India quite late. How shall we find out the mistake and rectify the matter? Shall we appoint the CIA? Shall we appoint a one man commission to probe into the problem?

JOSEPH KOMMATTAM, Manipur

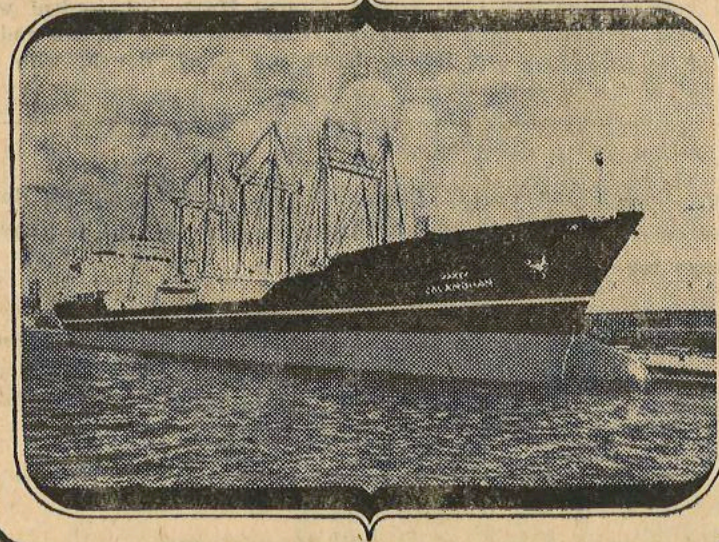
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Many readers have complained to us about the late delivery of HIMMAT. Another Bombay weekly even printed a full page of reader's complaints. Repeated complaints to the Postmaster General have not produced results.

We hailed the move by the Post Office to open a special sorting office. But complaints by readers have not ceased. Discreet enquiries from a Post Office official revealed why. "Don't blame us," he said. "We sort it all out, but there aren't enough bags. Repeated complaints by us have been of no avail. So magazines have to await empty bags before they can be despatched."

Mr Postmaster General, what about some more bags?

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Asia 1973

by Rajmohan Gandhi

JANUARY 26 is India's Republic Day and Australia's National Day.

In the changing scene in the Asian-Pacific region, Australia is likely to move closer towards the Asian mainland. India and Australia may find themselves agreeing on several international issues.

In a broadcast last Christmas Premier Gough Whitlam, of Australia said, "Let us make our objective that every child now born in our part of the world shall have a chance of life without fear, without want, without war. Is that an impossible goal? Perhaps. But why in the name of humanity, should we set our sights at less? Let us at least make that attempt."

Australia's and New Zealand's growing identification with Asia has been reciprocated by a desire in countries like India to promote a wider relationship. Geographical facts appear at last to be overcoming racial and cultural uncertainties.

Putting it broadly and crudely, the Asian, brown or yellow, and the white man have not yet found a stable partnership. One has only to observe the lack of integration with the communities where they live of the Asians in Britain or Europe or America to realise this. If the experience of neighbouring in which Australasia and the Asian mainland are beginning to be engaged succeeds, it could produce much global benefit.

Papua New Guinea may prove to be of considerable assistance in this regard. This tropical country, rich in races, tribes and minerals, will before long have complete independence. Its inhabitants seek internal unity and strength.

Administered thus far by Australia, they will undoubtedly want to expand their trade with other Asian countries. Japan clearly wishes to invest in Papua New Guinea's progress, and the coming years are likely to see increasing contacts among the citizens of Papua New Guinea, Australia and Japan. Already Japan is Australia's largest trading partner.

"The Vietnam war is coming to an end," says President Nixon. It is stated that his envoy, General

Haig, has won President Thieu's approval to the truce terms evidently agreed upon in Paris. Among those predicting an early ceasefire agreement is Premier Chou En-lai.

May he prove right. The Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians have not wanted war, but have had it all these years. They do not want authoritarian regimes either. Will they again get what they do not want?

Not necessarily. The absence of war in Indo-China need not automatically lead to the hegemony of extremist forces. The combination of peace, justice, liberty and tolerance is what the ordinary people of Indo-China yearn for; a dedicated leadership that believes in democracy can help deliver this combination. Must we rule out the emergence of such a leadership as the war ends?

Any view of the Asian scene must of course take into account the new Sino-Japanese relationship. Not many days pass in Peking without the arrival of some key Japanese visitor.

Culturally and racially allied, the industrious peoples of China and Japan may have a profound impact on the future of all of us.

Not many details are available in India of the agreement the two Koreas have reached. "The Indian Express" again has three full, closely printed pages devoted to a speech by President Kim Il Sung of North Korea. It is not described as an advertisement; a line at the end says, "Courtesy: 'Pyongyang Times'". "The Indian Express" is no great supporter of President Kim. There is a bit of a mystery here.

All the same, the Governments of Pyongyang and Seoul state that they have reached an accord. What it consists of and how it works out remains to be seen.

At the western end of Asia, the Arabs and Israelis continue with the policy of keeping the powder dry. Theirs is not an area of peace.

The north of the Asian mainland is occupied by a great portion of the Soviet Union and by China. It is the border between these two that has grown tense in recent

years. Any shooting across it could conceivably spark off the bitterest war ever.

The southern part of Asia contains the peninsula that comprises Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. All three countries have elected governments committed to democracy and socialism. Spokesmen for all three assert the anxiety of their governments for normal relations on the sub-continent. The abolition of poverty is the slogan of all three.

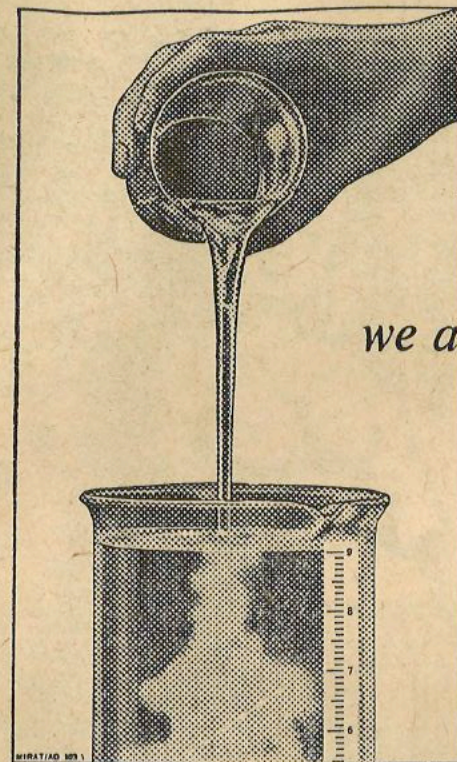
Yet poverty continues to stick like glue to the region, and normalisation remains elusive. The drought in many parts of India does not seem to interrupt the spate of strikes or restrain violent agitations. Bangladesh and Pakistan experience similar stresses.

So near and yet so far. This is how the position of the Indian economy in relation to progress can be described. Various instances of enterprise suggest that we are close to what some call a take-off. Yet we seem reluctant as a people to settle down to a period of steady, hard work. We seem to lack too the skill of reconciling differences such as have taken an acute form in Andhra.

The sub-continent as a whole is also close to a state of normalisation, and yet quite distant from it. The area appears to be in need of a new kind of statesmanship that understands human psychology and intense feelings and builds unity despite the divisive pulls.

This very brief review of the Asian scene shows that the labels of leftist or rightist, Communist or anti-Communist, pro-American, pro-Russian, or pro-Chinese have negligible meaning. India is not choosing between leftism and rightism. China is not retreating from Communism towards capitalism. Japan is not trying to decide between China or Russia or America as its principal ally.

For individuals and nations it is commonsense to get along with neighbours. There is a trend in Asia towards commonsense and away from prejudice. Other trends are not absent, but the positive one should be noted so that it can be encouraged and strengthened.



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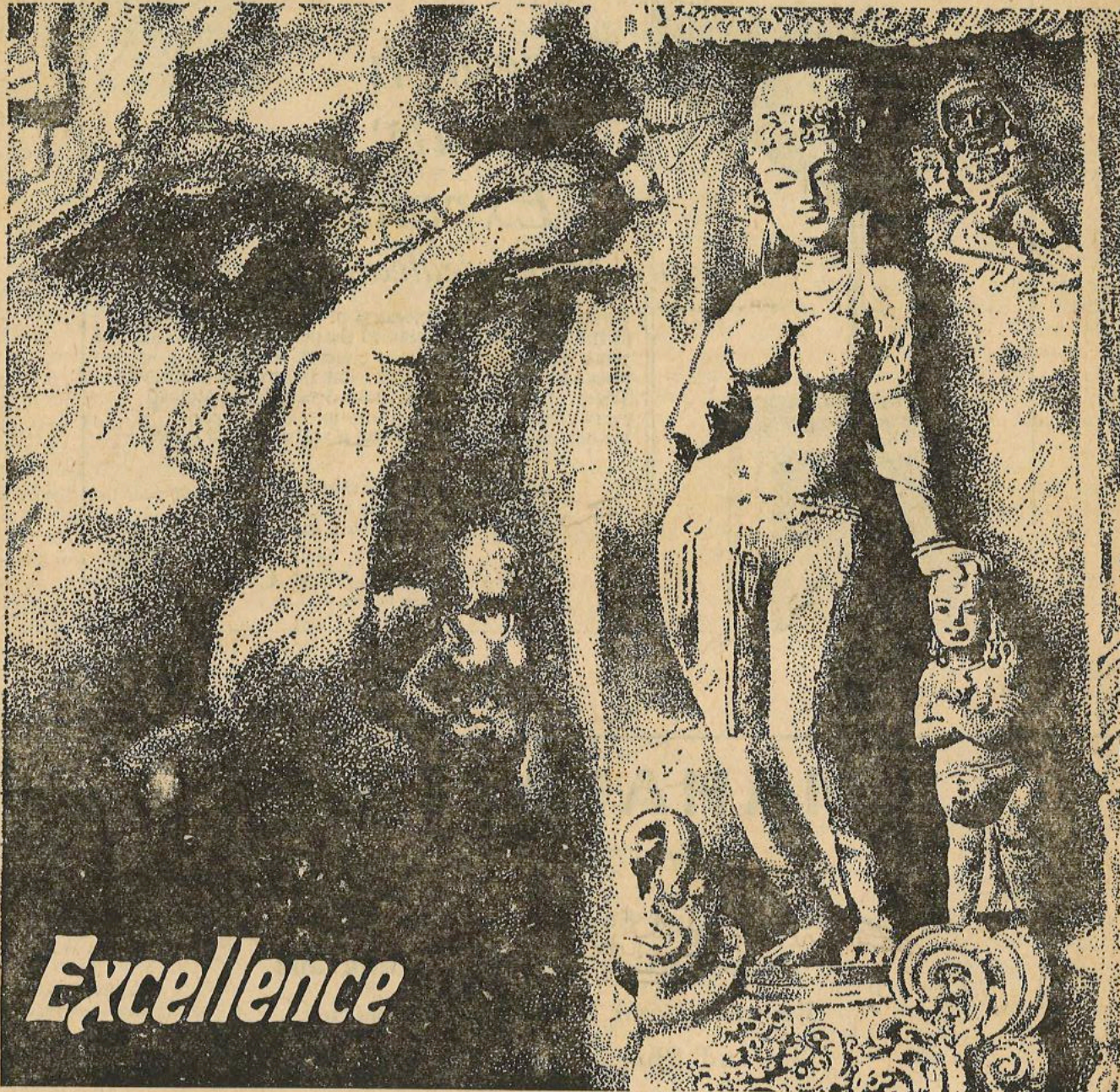
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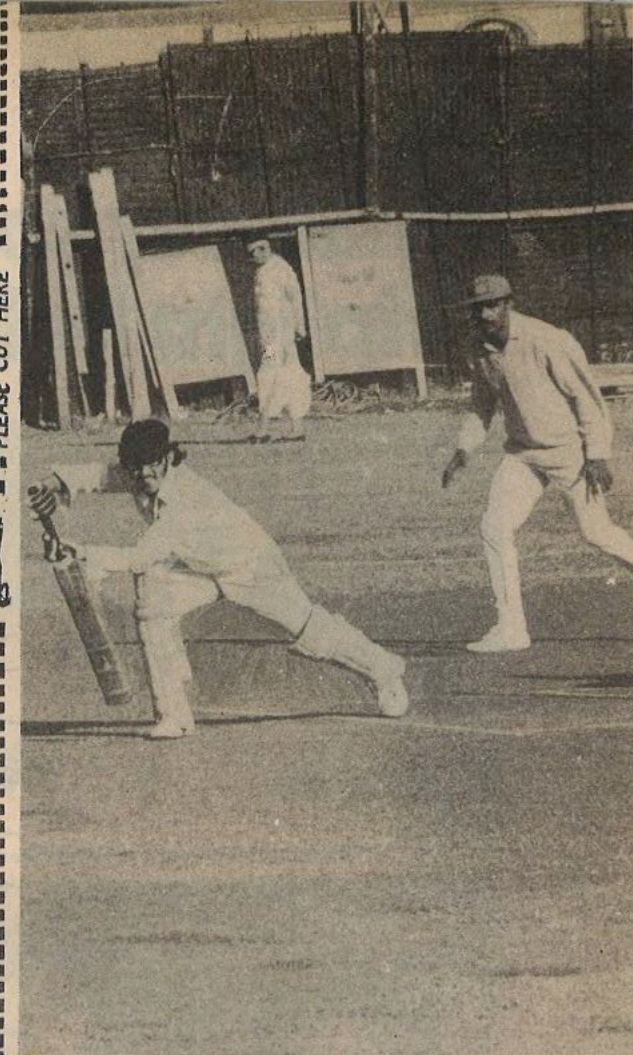
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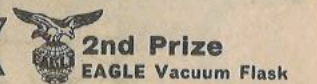
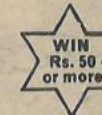
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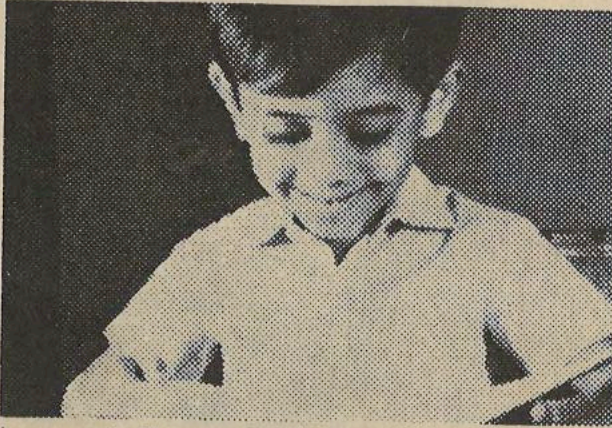
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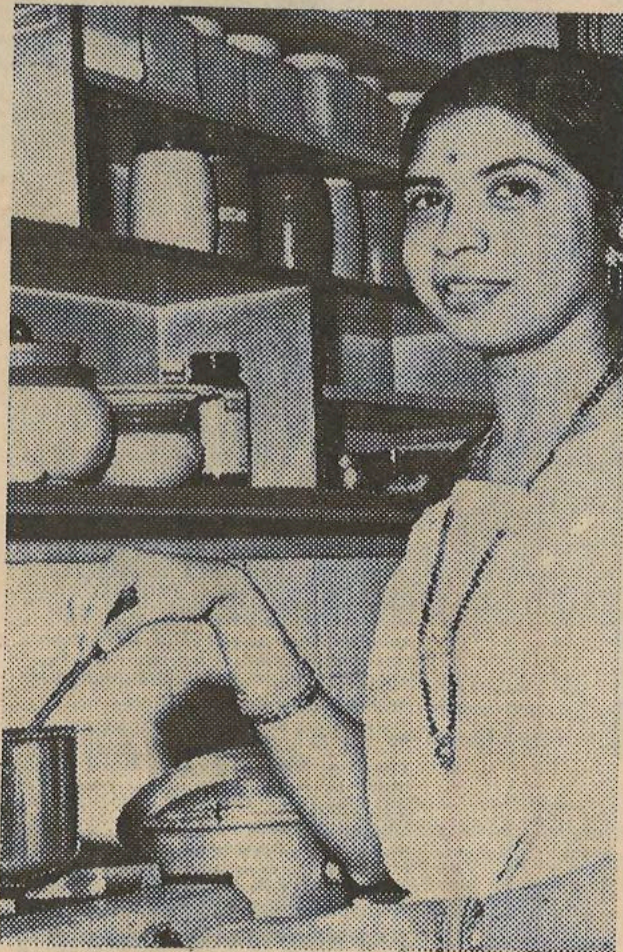
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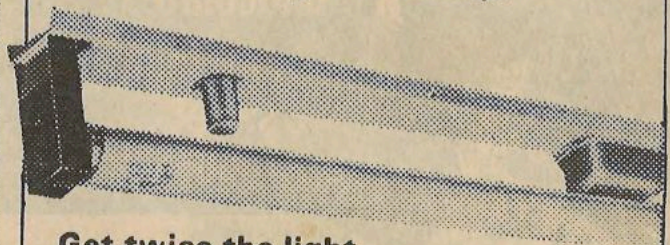


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