

NEWS OF CEYLON

The total estimated Ceylonese population in England and Wales, (1966 census) is 16,100. Of these 3,200 were born in the UK. The figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland were too small to be mentioned separately.

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EDITORIAL

INTRODUCING OURSELVES

This is the first issue of News of Ceylon. We shall come out twice each month and, initially, spread over eight pages of this size.

We have no politics, though it would be futile to hope that politics will not be thrust upon us. We bear nobody's banner. Our concern is not to foster the fortunes of any established political party. Equally we have no interest in promoting new ones or preaching particular political ideologies. These matters we eschew from the outset.

As its name suggests News of Ceylon will bring news of Ceylon to as many of the 16,000 Ceylonese living in Britain as we can reach. Necessarily we will concentrate on issues of wide interest, particularly to Ceylonese living abroad. These we will report fully and factually. Matters of parochial interest in Ceylon we will have to leave largely unreported. We will not have space for the various political utterances and domestic affairs of even the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition. But if either of them or, indeed, anyone in the island contrives to lay an egg we shall carry the story.

Our primary concern is with growth. Growth of the living complex of Ceylon, the land and its people, We have only modest visions and no panaceaic plans. But we do have an abiding faith. We believe that if a greater awareness and concerted involvement can be generated, among our loose and scattered community in Britain, about the broad subject of development, then schemes and solutions will surely emerge.

In our columns we will discuss growth plans from every source – governments, oppositions, individuals and institutions. We will provide space for new ideas and projects. We will investigate and we will inform. This will be the backbone of our endeavour.

We will not shy away from controversy. We welcome a good debate. News of Ceylon will always provide a forum for views on development, provided there is no political posturing.

We hope we will never be a dull paper. There is room in our columns for fun and even, occasionally, down-right flippancy. We know that the human angle must never be lost, nor will it. People are our concern. Great and small, rich and poor, just plain people make news and we do not intend to forget it.

All this and more will be in News of Ceylon twice a month.

PASSPORT BILL—IS IT REALLY NECESSARY

As we go to print (necessarily several days before the date of issue) news is coming over of a new Bill which has been presented in Parliament by the Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, Mr T. B. Ilangaratne.

It is called the Passport (Regulations) and Exit Permit Bill. What its form will be when it ultimately becomes law it is impossible to tell. We hope to print the more important sections of the Bill as soon as we can, possibly in the next issue.

But it is not too early to consider one aspect of it which must be of special interest to Ceylonese living abroad. One report on this proposed legislation says:-

"The provisions of the Bill compel Ceylonese living abroad to remit part of their earnings in foreign exchange and also seek to control the issue and renewal of passports, emergency certificates and exit permits."

Let there be no question about the propriety and patriotic purpose of the thinking behind this provision. But if the intention is to boost Ceylon's foreign exchange earnings, which fall pitifully short of what is required, is it entirely wise?

A number of problems and pitfalls spring to mind. Leave aside the probity of an act which requires some citizens to pay an extra tax for the dubious

(Continued on page 4)

DETAINEES STILL BEING SIFTED

The single most significant event in Ceylon since independence in 1948, began on April 4, 1971. It was a concerted uprising of people, mostly young, from across the whole tapestry of society in the island. It swept on for all of the following day and night and continued in diminishing intensity in pockets throughout the island for weeks.

Before it was put down the government had to assume every emergency power available, deploy the army, navy and air force and request (and receive) assistance in arms, ammunition and aircraft from a number of countries including India and Pakistan, Russia and USA, and East and West Germany.

The story of the insurrection will surely be told at length, elsewhere. In this issue News of Ceylon looks at the 16,000-odd people who were taken into detention camps over a period.

On November 30, almost eight months after the first 'action', the Minister of Local Government, Public Administration and Home Affairs, Mr Felix R. D. Bandaranaike, speaking for the Prime Minister, made a statement to the House of Representatives. It is the latest official position. Its main points are summarised as follows:-

The total number taken into detention was slightly in excess of 16,000. They were made up of those captured in the course of initial unrest, those who had surrendered during two four-day periods in May (Vesak) and June (Poson) and those arrested on information obtained from the two groups.

Of 12,000 in detention at the time of the second surrender (for some elusive reason these periods are referred to by proponents and opponents of government policy as 'amnesties') period, 8,000 had surrendered.

In the course of things two Special Units had been set up. The one to probe for information about the insurrection and the other to process the extent of involvement and separate the innocent from the guilty. The Units had tried to obtain information voluntarily and what checked out as accurate was used to categorise the detainees.

In reverse order of involvement, detainees would fall into one or other of three categories. Category A was for those who turned out to be innocent of any involvement, Some 2,600 of this group had already been released but required to report to the police each month.

The Minister cited, as an example of the sort of people in this category, some who had been arrested for being in possession of dynamite. It had turned out, it seems, that the explosive material in their hands was for the purpose of dynamiting fish. The culpability of that particular activity was, of course, no concern of classifiers or classifications according to rebellion.

Category B was for those who had attended political classes conducted by the J. V. P. but who denied having been involved in that party's "criminal activity". These had to be investigated more thoroughly.

Category C was for persons who admitted involvement in criminal activities but said they did so

under compulsion. These could ultimately face charges ranging from treason to offenses under the Explosives Ordinance. Files of 216 of these cases had been sent to the Attorney General.

These three categories do not include insurgents captured in the actual fighting and raiding of police stations. These were in a group on their own.

The procedure for trial would be based on prevalent law, including emergency laws. New laws were being drafted and would be formulated to meet with the peculiar situation.

In a much earlier statement to the House the Prime Minister, while admitting that she could not be "absolutely accurate", had estimated that about 1200 people had died in the course of the uprising. Of these 60 were police and Services personnel.

Casualties were, of course, much higher. The total damage to public and private property, and counting loss of production, has been estimated at 100 million rupees.

The Press remains under total censorship and there has been no indication that a let up is coming soon. The ban on publication extends to posters, pamphlets and the like on the insurgency. There are no public meetings in the open.

The wide powers of arrest and restraint given very early to the police, remain in force. These include the power of officers to detain without notifying relatives and power to cremate or bury a dead body without the presence of any other person or authority.

There has been (growing) criticism of the government, particularly at its tardiness in bringing the detainees to trial - if they are to be tried - or releasing them.

The continued gagging of the Press has covertly endorsed practically every statement and accusation made against the official position. As far as the publications of pressure groups is concerned the government must consider itself very fortunate that nearly all of them have foundered very early on their own words.

Even that august body, Amnesty International, very nearly sank before casting off. Lord Avebury (Amnesty's investigator) in his statement of September 29, for example, reduced this large and complex human problem into a sum from a child's arithmetic book.

"On July 20", it said, "the Prime Minister stated in Parliament that 7000 detainees had been taken before the investigating committee appointed for the purpose and that of these, 2500 had been recommended for release.

"If the committee had worked since July 20 at the same speed, and if the proportion of innocent remained the same, then in the second half of the examinations by now all should have been seen by the committee and 5000 would have been recommended for release."

Avebury's statement then ended its section on the "Release Programme" by contrasting its own pro-

2000 FORGED RICE BOOKS

Food Department officials found 2000 forged ration books when they raided a city establishment. The department is continuing the search in other cities of the island.

ENGLISH MADE COMPULSORY IN SCHOOLS

English will be the second compulsory subject in all schools. With the introduction of new reforms, from early this year, English will be the common alternative second language for students in both Sinhalese and Tamil streams. The Ministry of Education has launched a scheme to make the study of English more interesting and to encourage mass participation of students in drama activities. The English Unit of the Ministry have organised circuit exhibitions and school exhibitions intended to encourage and inspire both student and teacher into active involvement.

MODIFIED FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR CEYLON

The five year plan drafted by the Ministry of Planning Affairs was not something final. It could be amended in the light of views expressed by the various sections of the people. In order to obtain the views of the people, the Prime Minister ordered for 30,000 copies of the Plan to be sent to various organisations such as local bodies, development councils, rural development societies and Universities for comments and suggestions.

She said that the Ministry will modify the Plan as and when suitable suggestions were made but she reiterated that no plan could succeed without the maximum co-operation of all sections of the people.

DETAINEES STILL BEING SIFTED (continued)

jected figure of 5000 with "the actual total of 2100 released at the end of last week" and adding that "no explanation has been provided for the discrepancy between the numbers of those recommended (2500) and actually released."

But if the government has had it fairly good on these counts the fact nevertheless remains that several 1000 people have been held in detention camps for a number of months. It may not be wise to let them all out on the streets, and Ministers have histrionically enquired whether that is what they are expected to do, but no great good can be done by keeping them confined indefinitely.

The time is overdue when impending legislation and transmission of files must be translated into visible action. Cannot the Press ban be now even partially lifted? Surely the names, at least, of the 16,000 detainees must be available for those who wish to see them.

It may well be that Justice is being done, but it is not very easy to see it while we remain blindfolded.

BUDGET PROPOSALS BURDENED THE POOR

The Cabinet erred in placing more burdens on the people before it took action to implement measures that would hit at the capitalist system.

This criticism was made by the Minister of Communications, Mr Leslie Goonewardens.

The Minister said that the Government was now getting ready to implement those anti-capitalist measures including the imposition of a ceiling on individual and company land-holdings.

He said the the Government would shortly distribute for the benefit of the people, lands that would be vested in the State.

Compensation would, however, be paid for lands taken over by the State.

THE COMPULSORY SAVINGS

The scheme grants relief to the middle income groups who now make contributions. A single person whose income is less than Rs. 12,000 for an year will not be called upon to make Compulsory Savings contributions. This exemption will be higher in the case of families persons rising to Rs. 15,000/- in the case of a family consisting of husband, wife and four children or dependents.

Persons who receive employment income will have their Compulsory Savings contributions deducted by their employers monthly from the salaries paid. The Savings contribution will be related to the income tax payable and will be forty per centum of the tax payable. The employer will thus be required to deduct as Compulsory Savings from persons who are liable to make contributions 40 per centum of the tax deducted under the Pay-As-You-Earn Scheme.

SELF ASSESSMENT FOR INCOME TAX AND WEALTH TAX

From the year of assessment 1972/73, a scheme of self assessment will be introduced for income tax and wealth tax. The taxpayer will be required to furnish quarterly returns and pay the income tax and wealth tax due in quarterly instalments. Thus, for the year of assessment 1972/73, quarterly returns and payments have to be made on or before the 15th July, 15th October, 15th January and 15th April. The return for the last quarter should contain all final adjustments.

Income tax and the Savings Levy are linked together so that a taxpayer will be called upon to make only one return for each quarter.

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PASSPORT BILL (cont.)

privilege of working away from home. Ignore also the rectitude (not to mention the legality) of compelling them to pay through sanctions on their mobility and citizenship documents. Consider only two inescapable questions.

The first is whether the individual is able to put aside this extra portion of his regular wage packet (whatever percentage of his earnings it may be) without feeling the pinch so much that he will feel compelled to escape it in one way or another.

This consideration does not often rate very high with home governments and the civil servants who advise on these matters. In relatively poor but always amiable societies like Ceylon's most people can get along reasonably well on earnings which by any standard would rate as modest.

The rub arrives when (if, would be fairer) people do their arithmetic on the assumption that the earners abroad live in the same friendly, family-backed conditions as their fellows at home. By the very nature of things this is never so. This basic error is often compounded by many at home, official and other, by a simple conversion of dollars or pounds or whatever, into rupees. Some go further and make the conversion at FEEC rates.

In this way a Ceylonese in Britain earning £60 a month (and an unhappily large number of them do) which is below the minimum wage in this country, is reckoned to be earning 900 or 1,320 rupees a month.

In a country where, as Mrs Bandaranaike said in Parliament during the recent budget debate, 80 per cent of the working population earn less than 400 rupees a month, this must seem like very good going. But if the arithmetic is accurate, the straight swop of situations makes nonsense of reality.

Of course the foreign exchange needs of the country are real and acute. Of course every little bit counts. But against the genuine difficulties of the individual and assuming that a graduated percentage of "tax" is worked out which prises out only a very small amount from the lower income groups, is it worth it?

Arguably the better-off will be less discomfited, though a higher percentage levy would largely cancel this out.

The 1966 British census put the number of Ceylonese living in England and Wales at fractionally above 16,000. If one counts 500 more for Scotland and Northern Ireland and add another 1000 for good measure the total is still depressingly small as a corrective source for Ceylon's ailing foreign exchange situation.

The number includes non-working women and children. Some system will have to be worked out to take less from breadwinners of large units. A considerable volume of work (which, presumably, will have to be paid for) will go into the very establishment of each person's real earning.

The second question, which follows on the assumption that Ceylonese abroad ARE in a position to make a meaningful contribution, is whether a compulsory payment of a given portion of their earnings is the best way to extract the boodle. The

question has to be asked in conjunction with another. That is, will this not result in an alienation of goodwill towards the State. It would be plain silly to assume otherwise. There will be many who will react adversely if only because the payment is compulsory.

At the end of the day, even when all the compelling machinations of State have been brought into play, there will be only one thing, as far as most individuals are concerned, between payment and a number of loopholes - patriotism.

It is a powerful force; even in situations which usually make for an avid search for ways out. But must so much strain be put upon it?

Just to say "no" is patently inadequate. There is no doubt that the need is real. It is equally true that the goodwill exists, that there are many who would like, are even anxious, to get up and lend a hand. How can these two be fused to create the greatest energy?

One idea staggered off the ground briefly over a year ago. To all intents and purposes it seems to have relapsed into a recumbent position since. It is revived here because it is near to hand and because it was thought up by one of the backroom boys of this paper, together with Mr Neville Kanakarathne who was then Minister at the Ceylon High Commission in London and is now Ambassador in Washington.

The Ceylon Daily News of October 4, 1970, in a report headlined "Students Savings to the Rescue" mentioned it and rather inconsiderately gave all credit to our man. The relevant paragraphs read as follows:-

"Dr Perera (N. M., Minister of Finance) also showed interest in a scheme proposed by a Ceylonese post-graduate Economics student at Birmingham University, Mr E. Ratnasabapathy. The scheme aims at attracting the estimated 10,390 (C. D. N. figure) Ceylonese in the UK to invest in a Ceylon Development Savings Fund to be managed by the High Commission.

"It proposed to ask each Ceylonese to save a pound a week so that the money collected could be invested in development projects in Ceylon. It also proposed that such a Fund should buy the buildings which now house the High Commission, Tea Centre, Bank of Ceylon and Air Ceylon so that a 'colossal' amount of money spent on rent could be saved for Ceylon."

Dr N. M. Perera's Budget three weeks later made use of the scheme. The Daily News report on his speech read as follows:

Special fund

"A special fund - remittances from Ceylonese employed abroad". I have for some time contemplated appealing to all Ceylonese living abroad to help their mother country at this moment, when Ceylon is gravely in need of foreign exchange.

This is, of course, not a new thing. A large number of countries benefit by the patriotism of their citizens in employment outside their country.

Yugoslavia draws a considerable amount of foreign

exchange by the repatriation of funds by Yugoslavians employed in various countries in Europe especially in Germany. This is true also of small countries like Cyprus and Malta.

There are many thousands of Ceylonese employed in the United Kingdom, Canada, in the United States, Australia and elsewhere. I would like to appeal to all these Ceylonese to help their homeland at this hour of need. Without an undue burden on themselves, it would be possible for each one of them to send to Ceylon a minimum of £10 a month. The response was good when I spoke to some Ceylonese both in England and in Australia.

What is proposed is that they send Sterling, Dollars and Deutsche Marks or any other foreign currency through a Bank to Ceylon. These amounts will be credited to a special account in the name of the sender. These monies will accumulate here at FEEC rate and they also will be exempt from income tax. They will be available for them to be used when they come back to Ceylon.

The rate of interest that these monies will carry will be comparable with the commercial bank rate for fixed deposits. There will, however, be no right of repatriation of such monies."

The scheme itself was further moulded at a number of meetings in London which were attended by representatives from the High Commission, Tea Centre, Bank of Ceylon, and others.

Then, just about a year ago, an agreed memorandum was sent to the Ceylon High Commission in London, to be forwarded to Colombo and the Finance Ministry. The burden of its content was a suggested plan to encourage (note, encourage not compel) Ceylonese who could find the odd quid or two (or more) to save it with a special fund rather than with the traditional building societies and the like.

Since encourage was the operative word the Minister was asked to consider certain incentives. Translated into lay language these were:-

1. That the money (which was not an outright donation to State coffers) could be converted into

rupees at a rate higher than the FEEC rate. This was not, of course to be a single sale of Sterling for rupees. The Ceylon money would go into the saver's rupee account and could be drawn only for certain reasons.

2. That the rupee account should be free of income tax and should be available "for free investment and legitimate expenses in Ceylon, whether or not the account holder should be resident in Ceylon.
3. That where monies were used to support dependants in Ceylon the same certification should be allowed them as is given when residents normally send money to dependants. This, for the purpose of tax allowances in the UK'
4. That Sterling funds which remain unconverted into rupees should be guaranteed interest at commercial bank rates.
5. That the rupee account could be used to pay customs and import charges and duties on goods which the saver may take back with him when he eventually returned to Ceylon, for permanent residence.
6. That when applications are made to import controlled or dutiable goods, evidence of membership and adequate savings with the Fund should be taken into consideration.

These six were the suggested incentives to draw Ceylonese savings into a central fund on which the State could draw for short or long term investment like any other investment authority.

Very briefly this was the scheme. With some pruning and smoothing it could work. It is not set out here as a plan to beat all plans. But it did have that important ingredient of involvement, with a little bit for everyone - State and saver alike - and no losers. There must be other plans every bit as good and better than it.

It is different in one important way from the compelling legislation which has been mooted. It has no teeth. But then, teeth can only be used to bite.

TAKE RIGHT STEPS OR WE ARE DOOMED DR. MAHMUD WARNS

We have reached the cross-roads of the nation's history - the history of independent Ceylon. The steps we decide to take now, the road we choose to traverse now, will decide the future of our Motherland. If we make mistakes, the same mistakes we have made in the past, we will be doomed. There will be no salvation.

So said the Minister of Education, Dr. Al Hal Badiuddin Mahmud.

Dr. Mahmud said that for twenty-three years we had been experimenting and if twenty-three years' of experimenting was not going to teach us, then "of course we will learn nothing".

He confessed that in the post-independence era we had become a nation of planners and pointed out that a handful of dedicated, intelligent and experienced officers could sit down and bring forth a plan within a matter of days.

"To what extent has the country benefited as a result of these plans? If planning alone can give satisfaction, then all the planners must have derived optimum satisfaction," he added.

He explained that he did not intend to blame anybody, any single group or body for the omissions and commissions of the past and remarked. "But the time has come for all of us, for the entire nation to pause and take stock and to view critically, analysing the causes for our failure

Here are the suggestions of Mr. Mahmud's for Plan implementation.

The most important factor for the successful implementation of any plan is one hundred per cent public co-operation and participation.

If we all work with one spirit for the next five years we would have succeeded in reversing the downward trend and putting Ceylon on the upward path of economic prosperity.

PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES TO FUNCTION

1800 People's Committees established in 22 districts of the island are now functioning. Their main objective will be to fight bureaucratic inefficiency, corruption and delay. Each committee is eleven members strong. The Commissioner of the People's Committees hopes to expand the number of committees to 9000 in the course of this year.

STATE CORPORATION TO MANUFACTURE ALCOHOL

A committee appointed by the Minister of Finance, Dr N. M. Perera, has strongly recommended the setting up of a corporation to manufacture all types of alcoholic drinks. The committee has emphasised that the corporation should not only be responsible for the production, maintenance of standards and distribution of arrack but also engage in research to improve the quality of the various drinks. The endeavours of the new corporation should be to increase arrack production thereby generating more employment while giving the consumer a more palatable drink.

PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE TO END

The process of abolishing private medical practice was set in motion on January 1st, when the Ministry of Health began implementing Government policy. Private practice in Colombo goes first. Other areas will follow in stages. With the total abolition of the private practice the Government hopes to make the services of all specialists available full-time in Government hospitals.

TRAINING FOR WOMEN FARMERS

Through the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Colombo, the Government will provide training for women in agricultural extension work. Under a plan signed by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the FAO the Farm Women's Agricultural Extension Programme will last for four years. Its main objective is to integrate the rural women and youth into the total activities of the farm so that the family may make the maximum use of available human resources, undertaking a diversity of agricultural activities which will result in increased food production, a higher family income level and better conditions of family living in the rural areas.

SERVICEMEN TO GROW SUGAR CANE

The Prime Minister announced, when she presented the Five-Year Plan, that the country's armed services will be used on development projects like jungle clearing. As a result, the Government has decided to intensify the cultivation of sugar cane. In terms of the budget proposals, the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs, Agriculture and Land, and Plantation and Industry are preparing a joint programme for servicemen.

CEYLON ON TELEVISION

Two feature films on Ceylon will be shown on television (BBC 1 and 2) in the first quarter of 1972. The first, Life in the Hills will be first shown on the BBC 2 children's programme, People of Many Lands, at 10.45 am on Monday, February 28, and repeated at 2.35 pm on March 7. The second, Ambalangoda - Coastal Town, will appear on BBC 1 on Monday, March 13, at 10.15 am, and be repeated on March 21, at 2.35 pm. Both films are in colour and run for 20 minutes each.

INDICATOR FOR VITAL STATISTICS ON CEYLON

The FEEC's value of Rs 22.99 for a Pound Sterling is 55 percent above the official exchange conversion rate of Rs 14.77. This, among other vital statistics - for instance, the external deficit for the third quarter of 70-71 is - 358.8 million in nett cash terms compared to -57.2 for the first quarter of 70-71, will be a regular feature in the News of Ceylon to indicate the Economic performance of Ceylon.

CEYLON COMMITTEE

A Ceylon Committee has been formed in London with a view "To assist in the setting up of an independent commission of inquiry into the uprising in April". The news release published by the Ceylon Committee reveals its prominent members which include Ven. Dr Rahula, Prof. Ludowyck and Mr C.R. Hensman. The notable British member of the Committee is Prof. Joan Robinson of the Cambridge University.

CEYLON WILL RECOGNISE BANGLADESH?

The Government of Ceylon is pursuing a 'wait and see' policy in recognizing the new state of Bangladesh. A top official in the foreign service told the News of Ceylon that Ceylon will one day recognise Bangladesh, but for the present the Government is observing the developments to make a decision in the near future.

The official however felt that Ceylon could sell her tea to 75 million people of Bangladesh.

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WEEKLY PAY PACKETS

The Government is considering a proposal whereby all wage earners will receive weekly pay packets. The proposal urges that payment of wages should be hitched to the weekly rations.

WRIST WATCH HAUL

Four gallon tins containing 1685 wrist watches valued over Rs. 20,000/- abandoned off the Negombo beach. The detection was made after a team of high officials visited Negombo beach on November 30th where a couple was nabbed with 3,300 wrist watches and 480 watch straps a week ago.

THE INCOME CEILING

An income ceiling of Rs. 2,000 a month was announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech. This will be implemented through the Compulsory Savings Scheme. The scheme will ensure that no individual will have spendable income of more than Rs. 2,000 per month after paying income tax and the savings levy. In the case of a family unit, the ceiling on income of Rs. 2,000 will apply to the aggregated income of all the members of the family. In fixing this ceiling the Wealth tax payable for the current year will be taken into account. No other commitments, including repayment of loans and insurance premia paid etc will be taken into account.

FIRST GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The Geological Survey Department of Ceylon will soon complete the first systematic geological mapping of the country. It has now mapped out 63 percent of the island. This mapping of the country and the preparation of geological maps are essential for exploration and appraisal of the island's mineral resources.

CHARTER FLIGHTS - REGULAR AND SPECIAL

Five charter flights to Ceylon arranged by three Ceylonese organisations in London have taken 750 people to Ceylon this Christmas. At the compulsory £25 which each passenger is required to encash in the island the foreign exchange gain to country, at FEEC rates, will be nearly half a million rupees.

The first of BOAC's new special charters to Bombay leaves on January 2. According to Kenton Travel Ltd., the Ceylonese company in London who are accredited IATA agents, a one-way ticket to Colombo, using this service, will now cost under £100. The return fare is £185.

EUROPEAN MARKET FOR CEYLON PLYWOOD

The Ceylon Plywood Corporation is now exporting sawn timber to West Germany. Recently, it also secured export orders from Rumania and Czechoslovakia, valued at £37,867 (Rs. 833,074 at FEEC rate).

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STERLING COMPANIES

Government would introduce legislation to compel all sterling companies to convert themselves into rupee companies. This would enable Ceylonese to buy shares in estates owned by these companies.

This was announced by the Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne.

He said that when the Government takes steps to nationalise estates, vested interests would oppose it and even institutions like the World Bank might not like it.

The Government was however determined he added, to go along with its programme of holding 51 per cent shares in these industries.

CEYLON YOUTH PLAN TO MAKE THE UN MORE MEANINGFUL

The Ceylon youth movement for the United Nations has issued a booklet called the 'Dialogue' which aims to revitalise the UN's image in that part of the world, and to make it a more positive and creative force for the fostering understanding and commitment. 'Dialogue' is their contrivance towards spanning the chasm that divides generations, nations, races and creeds. Their intention is to make this modest issue a forum for views and interviews. In keeping with its theme 'Dialogue' gives a two minute make-you-think message from a variety of well-knowns and unknowns.

SEERS SELLS PRODUCTION TECHNIQUE

Local manufacture and processing of traditional products like tea, rubber and coconut for export markets has been recommended by Prof. Dudley Seers and his team which studied unemployment problems in Ceylon. This is their answer to the mounting unemployment. The report has stressed that large scale unemployment is due to the disparity of growth of Ceylon's population and the downward trend in revenue from export earnings which makes it increasingly difficult to sustain Ceylon's considerable social services and generate employment and foreign trade. The report recommends that not only a continued increase in the production of Tea, Rubber and coconut but that these basic products should be processed before export. This it observes would create extra income and employment. An analysis of the report and recommendations will be published in the next issue of the News of Ceylon.

CEYLONESE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES

The Prime Minister has called upon everyone who loves his country to co-operate whole-heartedly with the Government in implementing a scheme to register all people living in Ceylon. Every person who reaches the age of eighteen will be legally required to obtain an identity card within one year. In this way, the Government hope to eliminate the illicit immigration into Ceylon.

LOOK FOR THE LION OF CEYLON ON THE PACKET

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