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NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Monday August 1st at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking.

Good evening: I hope you have all enjoyed the long weekend that is now coming to a close. Unfortunately for me, I was one of those who had to work both on Saturday and today. On Saturday I had to spend the whole day seeing that copies of the West Indian Economist were parcelled up and posted as the magazine came off the press late. And today I have to spend tidying up a long overdue article for an American magazine. All this meant that I had no real weekend at all; and this has put me into disgrace with my family who had to cancel their plans for the weekend. Anyway, I hope yours has been a much more restful weekend than mine.

Now this evening I want to discuss this question of imported powdered milk and locally produced liquid milk. Over the weekend, the Jamaica Times carried as its main headline story these words: "Government Accused of Sabotaging Island's Dairy Industry". The story that followed this startling headline reported that Mr. Russell Graham, a director of the Jamaica Livestock Association, had told a meeting of the directors of the Association that "government is sabotaging the dairy industry of the island by allowing the great importation of milk powder to compete against it".

The story goes on to say that Dr. A.A. Peat, our Chief Medical Officer, has ordered that the Mental Hospital should no longer give its patients local ~~liquid~~ milk. Instead, the patients should be given milk made up of imported milk powder. Dr. Peat's reason for this action, according to Mr. Graham, is that he is not satisfied with the quality of our local milk. But Mr. Graham feels that this is not

true. Mr. Graham also says that it is not true to say that there is a shortage of local milk in the Corporate Area. And so we have the charge of government sabotaging the island's dairy industry.

Sabotage is a very strong word to use: but then, the Jamaica Livestock Association is a tough and forceful pressure group. The way in which they have pressurised government into lifting price controls from beef has shown this. And it is understandable that they should object bitterly to powdered milk which, pint for pint, is very much cheaper than local milk, coming in and competing with their milk.

But the way Dr. Peat looks at this milk business is rather different. He is concerned not with business and profits but with the health of the community in general and with the patients under his care in particular. To him, as to me, there is a doubt about the quality of our local milk. I used to give my children local milk but I stopped because of this doubt. One day the milk would be rich and creamy and fine: the next day it would be watery with a funny sediment at the bottom. And I frankly did not want to take any chances with my children. And I can tell you this: ^{the U.S.} ~~there is one~~ foreign government ~~which~~ advises all its officers in Jamaica not to trust even our pasteurised milk but to boil it before using. Milk is one of the most important and one of the most nourishing foods in the world - if it is clean and wholesome: it is one of the most dangerous carriers of germs and diseases - if it is not. This is a hard fact we must face. Good milk can give life; bad milk can take life. Of course, ~~fresh~~ pasteurised milk that is safe and does not need boiling is much richer than the best powdered milk. Because I am not satisfied in my own mind that our fresh milk is always of this standard, I go along with Dr. Peat and give my family powdered milk. The good health of my family is most important to me, as I am sure yours is to you. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Tuesday August 2nd at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am sure most of you read the comic strips in our daily papers: I certainly do. Well, if you and I could have been like Mandrake the Magician, or better still, like Garth with his Lady Asta, and if we could have made ourselves invisible and flown to a point over the Atlantic Ocean one afternoon last week, we would have had a most surprising experience.

We would have looked down on a very calm ocean. There would have been no ship in sight. ~~xxxxxx~~ No aeroplane would have flown anywhere near where we hovered. There would have been no sign of man nor beast nor any living creature: only the calm sea and a sunny day. Then, suddenly, something would have happened. A slender/
~~xxxxxx~~ cylinder, rather like the cylinders we use for our gas, but with a very pointed nose - a cylinder like that would have shot out of the calm ocean and climbed into the heavens with incredible speed. This is exactly what happened one day last week. The cylinder with the pointed head was the new United States Polaris missile.

And, still playing the game of the comic strip characters, if you and I had x-ray eyes, we would have looked forty feet below the surface of the calm ocean. There we would have seen a new kind of submarine: one that can stay under water longer than any submarines we now know of; one that can travel through the water with the speed of an eel; one that can go deeper under the oceans than any of the submarines we know; one that can make its own fresh air for humans to breathe. And the name of this submarine, we will see with our

x-ray eyes, is the George Washington. This again would be fact, not fancy; truth, not a coming strip story. And the day last week when that submarine shot that cylinder into the heavens saw the birth of another scientific revolution in our lives.

The people in that submarine can put into that cylinder a bomb so powerful that it can wipe out all of Kingston: Indeed, they can put a bomb in that cylinder that can wipe out New York or London or Moscow or Peking or any of the great cities of the world. And the people inside that submarine can aim straight for the heart of any one of these great cities while remaining undetected under the water anywhere in the world's great oceans. All they have to do is pick a target, adjust their instruments to aim the cylinder for that target and press a button. This cylinder will then shoot out of the ocean and travel 1,200 miles to hit that target on the nose.

This, I think, is the most terrible war weapon so far developed. There is not a single spot on the earth's surface where this dreadful new weapon cannot reach. And the submarine can go to within the required distance of any target in secret and without being seen. In a few years there will be 45 of these submarines and each one will carry more destructive power than was used by both sides in the last World War. This is the latest American reply to the Russian rockets and Mr. Khrushchev's warlike threats. It is part of the cold war.

But to me ^e that awful tragedy is that so much money, so much skill, knowledge, so much human effort has gone into the making of yet another weapon of destruction. If all this great knowledge, if all this money, if all this human effort had been bent on curing the sick, on feeding the poor, on housing the homeless, on educating the young, what a wonderful place this earth of ours would be by now. This, I think, is the great tragedy of our time. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Wednesday August 3rd at 6.15p.m

Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am glad to see that a K.S.A.C. deputation is seeing both the Premier and the Minister of Home Affairs about the cuts in the K.S.A.C. budget. You will remember that I told you about the cut in poor relief pay last Saturday. I told you that I hoped that this will be restored. I know that government has only so much money which has to go around and at times cuts have to be made. But I do hope that both government and the K.S.A.C. will agree that the one cut we should not make is to the poorest and most needy section of our community. As I said on Saturday, for anybody to live on 30/- a week is little enough in all conscience. To cut this by a third would be a social crime to my mind. So please restore the cut.

And now I want to talk about something that is unspectacular and undramatic but very important for the future of this country and its people. We all have our own ideas as to what we consider the most important thing for Jamaica's future well-being and prosperity. The industrialist would say developing Jamaica's industry is the most important; the agriculturist would say developing Jamaica's agriculture is the most important; the people mining bauxite would say that is the most important; those interested mainly in politics would say developing our political institutions is the most important. And they are all right. It is only a matter of emphasis, a matter of how you look at things.

But there is one factor without which industry, agriculture, politics, mining, labour and even the future and prosperity of the

country are all meaningless. That factor is the people of the country. The people of Jamaica, the people of any country, are its most important asset. It is the people of a country that are its greatest wealth. They work in industry, in agriculture, in mining; they determine the politics of the country. This is something we all know; but we all tend to take it for granted and so I do not apologise for reminding us of it. A country with a forward looking and progressive people goes forward and progresses. And I know nothing that makes a people as progressive and forward looking as does a good and sound educational system. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens and the education of today's children is, for me, the most important single factor for Jamaica's future well-being and prosperity.

It is for this reason that Mr. Glasspole's announcement that he will introduce a new Education Bill in October, is so very important. If this new Bill becomes law, as I expect it will, seeing that every child goes to school and gets a proper schooling, will be the duty of every parent. Parents who do not see that their children go to school regularly will find themselves in trouble with the law. There will be an end to the business of keeping children away from school to look after babies or help in the field or go to market. I think this is a very good thing. I think parents who keep their children from school do not realise how greatly these children will suffer in later years. And I think this new law should take us a big step nearer the day when there is free compulsory education for every child; and an even bigger step nearer to the day when we will have a generation of Jamaicans everyone of whom can read and write and is educated to make the greatest possible contribution to the future progress and well-being of this island. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Thursday August 4 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Tuesday morning of this week I telephoned the Extra Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies to try and get hold of Rex Nettleford. I wanted a copy of the report on the Ras Tafari Movement which had just been published by the University. Both the press and radio news of the report were too brief for my liking and I wanted to see the whole thing. And I knew that Rex had been responsible for seeing that the report got printed and distributed. Rex's secretary told me that he was not there and that he was getting ready to leave for Ghana on Wednesday morning. I left a very urgent message for him, and less than an hour later Rex Nettleford showed up at my office with a copy of the report which he, Mike Smith and Roy Augier had prepared. And since Rex was leaving for Ghana the next morning I arranged to record an interview with him straight away. You will hear this interview on Sunday afternoon at five past one. When you listen to this interview I should like you to remember that it was recording before I had read the report.

Now I have read the report. I think it is so important that I am going to forget all the other news for the rest of this week and concentrate all my attention on this report. Indeed, I think this report is so important for Jamaica and for Jamaicans that I would urge everyone of you most strongly to get hold of a copy and to read it again and again and again. It seems to me, after reading this report, that unless all of us understand what this report is trying to tell us and unless we do something about it, there is going to be very serious and very violent trouble ahead of us here in Jamaica.

It seems to me that if we go on treating the Ras Tafari Movement as we have treated it in the past we are storing up a whole heap of trouble for ourselves in the future. Mike Smith, Roy Augier and Rex Nettleford think exactly the same and say so very clearly. So please, each one of you get hold of a copy and read it very carefully. You can get copies at any book store. Remember the title of the report: it is: "The Ras Tafari Movement in Kingston, Jamaica", and it costs only a six pence. It runs to near sixty pages and I think it is the best and most important thing you can buy for a sixpence in Jamaica today.

And now let me try to give you a brief summary of the report. It begins by sketching out a history of the Rasta Movement. The most important prophet of the 'Back-to-Africa' movement was Marcus Garvey. Garvey taught the Negro to be proud, industrious and self-respecting: he taught a black race pride to counter white race pride. He is said to have prophesied that when a black king is crown in Africa the day of deliverance would be near. He is also said to have told the black people that they would be redeemed and returned to Africa in the 1960s. Garvey is said to have made these ~~xxx~~ prophesies in the 1920s. In 1930 Garvey's prophesy about a black king came true. Ras Tafari, an Ethiopian nobleman, was crowned as the Emperor Haile Sellassie. He was crowned 'King of kings, Lord of Lords, the conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah'. This marked the beginning of the Ras Tafari A movement sprang up which looked ~~Textxxxxxx~~ on the Ethiopian Emperor as the living God. Those who believed in this found justification for their belief in the books of the Old Testament. Ras Tafari was God and Marcus Garvey a major prophet..... Tomorrow I will tell you a little of how the movement developed. So till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Friday August 5 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Last night I told you how the idea of Ras Tafari as the living God came into being. The man who spread this idea of Ras Tafari as God, the earliest and most important preacher of this idea in Jamaica, was Mr. Leonard P. Howell who moved between Kingston and Port Morant preaching the Godhood of Ras Tafari, the Ethiopian Emperor. Later others like Joseph Nathaniel Hibbert and Archibald ~~Dunkley~~ followed him. They went about preaching their gospel in much the same way as the Bible tells us the early prophets and disciples did. It was a movement with a strong spiritual and religious base. Up to this point there was hardly any hint of violence in the movement. The Rastas saw the Emperor as God and saw Ethiopia as the Promised Land. They had strong racial attitudes. They believed that Jamaica was ruled by white people for the benefit of white people and that those black people who took part in the affairs of the country were traitors to the black race.

The idea of violence, the idea of a racial war, first came into the movement in 1935 after Italy had invade Ethiopia. It was then that the idea of overthrowing white domination by a racial war began. Howell's slogan at that time was "Death to black and white oppressors." It was also from this point on that the bitter conflict between the Rasta and the police started. Both these evils: the idea of violence and the conflict with the police have grown over the years until we have, today, a most unhappy situation on both counts.

But the report is very careful to kill the false belief held by so many people that all Rastas believe in violence. It shows clearly

that only a very small minority believe in violence. The vast majority of Ras Tafarians are men and women of peace. It also disproves the false notion that all Rastas are thieves and vagabonds. The majority of them, the report shows, are as honest and law-abiding as you and I. What the report does warn us about very sharply is the attitude of the police and the ~~general~~ public to the Ras Tafarians. Whether we like it or not, the way our police behave towards the Rastas, and the way many of us behave, does amount to ^{what could be interpreted as} 'persecution'. And so the Rastas have this sense of being persecuted, of being outcasts in our society, of being neglected and unwanted people within our community. And since they ^{feel} ~~are~~ unwanted, and discriminated against, and persecuted by the people who uphold our laws, very many of these Rastas have rejected Jamaica and all that Jamaica represents to them. They feel our government is not their government and so they are against it; they feel the political parties are not their political parties and so they are against them; they feel our police are their enemies and so they are against them; the development and progress we have achieved have given them nothing and so they reject that too; our educational and religious leaders have no respect for their deeply held beliefs and so many of them will have nothing to do with our schools and our churches. Everywhere around them they find active or passive hostility. In their own minds they are persecuted and rejected and denied. And so they reject us and our laws and our government and all our institutions. They are in Jamaica without being a part of Jamaica. And this, the report shows, is a very dangerous situation. It is the kind of situation out of which bloodshed and revolutions come. The report recommends ways in which we can try to remedy this situation. I will discuss these recommendations tomorrow. So till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Saturday August 6 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I think we can now answer the very important question: "What makes a Rasta a Rasta?" I think there are two key things that makes a Rasta a Rasta. The first is the racial thing. The Rasta is a black man in a world where all the values and judgements that are respected are of European origin. In that world God is white. Status, dignity, position and respect are associated with whiteness. He needs to have something all his own and of his own colour. Africa is the birthplace of the black folk of the earth, so Africa becomes both a physical and a spiritual home. He needs a God who will be the same colour as himself, so Rast/ Tafari, the ~~dark~~-skinned Ethiopian Emperor, who rules a land which is talked of in the Bible, becomes his God. This gives him self-respect and a status and dignity which glorifies the darkness of his skin.

The second thing is the social and economic thing. He is an outcast in our society. We have made it all too plain to him that we have no respect for him and his beliefs. More often than not we have not cared how he lived or what happened to his children. He and those like him have known years of not having a job and living in the filthiest physical conditions. And so he has rejected this society which has rejected him. These are, I think, the key factors which go into the making of a Rasta.

The report warns us that if these things continue unchanged there will be trouble ahead for us. Sooner or later misery and discontent leads to violence and revolution unless something is done about it. The report recommends that government helps the Rastas who

want to to go Africa. Government has accepted this recommendation. It recommends that we, the general public of Jamaica, recognise that the great majority of Rastas are peaceful citizens who are will to do an honest day's work; it recommends that the police finish their security work quickly and stop persecuting peaceful Rastas. It recommends the building of low-cost houses on a much greater scale; it urges government to buy up the lands on which Rastas now squat and put in light and water. It urges the setting up of social centres, youth clubs and children's clinics. It wants the Rastas to be helped to establish co-operative workshop. And it urges that, ~~the press and radio give~~ ^{be given} the leading members of the movement an opportunity to inform the general public about their movement and their views ^{through the press}. It ^{& radio} also wants the Ethiopian Coptic Church to be invited to set up a branch in West Kingston.

So there you have it: a positive programme of things to do to try and solve this great social problem which faces us today. I think it is an excellent programme and I think both the University, Dr. Arthur Lewis, and the three scholars who did this very important job in a very short time, deserve our thanks for the great contribution they have made to this very urgent problem.

A great deal of prejudice has been generated against the Rasta movement. But prejudice does not solve problems: only good sense and clear thinking and this report gives us that. Please, each one of you - and that includes the Rastas too - please get hold of this report and read it carefully. It costs only a sixpence and you can get it at any bookshop. It is important that we act on its advice if we do not want violence and bloodshed in tomorrow's Jamaica. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Monday ~~Aug~~ 8.6.15p.m

Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The number one news item on the international scene is still the ~~Belgixx~~ Congo. What is happening in the Congo has pushed even what is happening in Cuba off the centre of the world stage: so I think it is time to have another look at the Congo. But this evening I want to deal with a few items of domestic politics and leave the Congo for tomorrow.

The first important domestic item was the announcement last Thursday that Booker Brothers have bought/^{the}controlling interest in the Inwood Estate. I think this is a very important and very welcome piece of news for us here in Jamaica. Many of you may know that Bookers are sugar producers, shipowners, engineers, manufacturers, rum distillers and merchants and traders with world-wide interests. They do business in Great Britain, in Canada and in the West Indies - mainly in British Guiana. They have recently set up a printery in Trinidad and this Inwood Estate deal suggests that they are thinking of extending their investments throughout the West Indies. They already had a small holding here in Tia Maria.

I welcome the coming of Bookers to Jamaica because I think they are one of the most progressive businesses in the world today. Their outlook is modern and they believe in opening up all opportunities for the gifted native workers of the countries in which they operate. In the annual report to Booker shareholders, Sir Jock Campbell, ^{Bookers Chairman,} talked about the underdeveloped countries of Africa and Asia and the Caribbean and said: "It is western capitalism which must, if it is to survive, adapt itself to, and become part of, the historical processes of these

nations.....The more successful investments there are, the more the economy will develop, the more significant the part they will play in the economy, and the more they will be accepted as a necessary and desirable factor in the economy - provided, of course, that they are not identified, as in the past, with political domination or illusions of racial superiority". That is how Sir Jock Campbell expressed the policy of Bookers and that is why I welcome Bookers to Jamaica.

My second important home news item was carried on the front page of yesterday's Sunday Gleaner: it is that British Honduras would welcome immigrants from the West Indian islands of the Federation. Now British Honduras is a vast land which is more than twice the size of Jamaica, and yet it has a tiny population of a little more than 80,000 people. There is room there; room for another million or more people. Land for settlement can be got very cheap and anybody who has the right pioneering spirit which the early Jamaicans had, can make a beautiful future for himself in that country. But I warn you, it will mean hard work and no bright lights until you have helped to develop the country. Of course, you will have to satisfy the Honduras authorities that you are of good character and that you have enough money to start yourself off. But there it is, a challenge to any Jamaican who wants a chance to make a new start.

Finally, I see that Lydford farms have made a further increase in the price at which they sell beef to butchers. The butchers will want to pass the increase on to you. It is up to you to dig in your heels and refuse to carry the price increase. If you do prices are bound to come down. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Tuesday August 9 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember that I first spoke to you about the Congo on June 20th; that was ten days before the Congo became an independent state. You will remember I predicted then that three men would dominate Congolese affairs. These men were 34-year-old Patrice Lumumba, a bit of a hot-headed nationalist who had served a prison term for theft; then there was 43-year-old Josph Kasavubu, a solid conservative type whom the Belgian then hoped would be the first Prime Minister of the independent Congo; and finally there was Moise Tshombe, 41-year-old son of a very wealthy family, father of 8 children and leader of what is almost certainly the richest piece of land in all Africa. These three, I told you, were the men who would dominate Congolese affairs. You will remember I then went on to tell you that already 57 people had been murdered in election riots. I told you I expected things to get worse and I told you why I expected things to get worse. The Congo, I told you, had been under Belgian rule from 1885 until 1960. In all those years the Belgians had ruled with an iron hand. They had not allowed the Negroes of the Congo to form political parties. There had been no elections of any kind and nobody in the Congo, not even the white settlers from Belgium, had ever cast a vote to settle any Congolese matter. Belgian rule had been absolute and dictatorial. And the Belgians had dealt firmly and ruthlessly with any 'agitators'. If any Congolese were heard to express any political view or any question concerning Belgian imperialism he just disappeared and nobody heard of him again.

So, the Congolese had no experience of political organisation. They knew nothing about running affairs at a local government level, let alone at central government level. The Belgians had not allowed any Congolese to hold any position of authority in the civil service, so they knew next to nothing about the administration of public affairs. But the wind of change of which Mr. Harold Macmillan spoke was blowing through the African continent and much as the Belgians disliked it, it hit the Congo and independence came to a people who had no training for it. It was because of this background history that I told you that things would get worse. There was no other way for things to go. You cannot expect to tie a child down to a bed in a dark room from the day of its birth until it reaches 21 without expecting trouble when you let it loose. The light of day will tend to blind such a child: it will not know how to use its limbs. At 21 such a child-adult will have to learn to walk and to see.

If you look at the situation from this point of view then you will see that the Congo situation could have been very much worse than it is today. The Congolese are learning the hard way, and I still see a whole heap of trouble ahead. Indeed, this promise of trouble ahead seems to have developed into three sharp and clearly defined problems over the past week or so. First, there is the trouble with the secessionist province of Katanga; second, there is the political power crisis facing Patrice Lumumba the Prime Minister; and third there is the United Nations-Belgian-Pan African aspect of the crisis. All three of these crises are inter-related and yet all of one piece. Tomorrow evening I will try to make a little sense out of them for you; so till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Wednesday August 10 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: When the Congo became independent on June 30th of this year it was organised on Federal lines. Each of the ~~five~~ provinces had its own government with powers to pass laws on ~~all~~ specific matters; but powers to deal with all matters affecting the whole country remained with the central government. After much political bargaining Mr. Lumumba became Prime Minister of the central government and Mr. Kasavubu became President. By this time the mess in the Congo had already started. There was a breakdown in the army and in the civil administrations. The Belgians were leaving the country in wild panic and soldiers were roaming the streets as lawless bands. Mr. Tshombe, the Prime Minister of Katanga looked at this and decided he wanted no part of it, and started his secessionist movement. The Belgians supported Tshombe with an army of 15,000 men. Lumumba called in the United Nations and wanted the United Nations to send troops into ~~the~~ Katanga to force Tshombe to submit to the central government. Tshombe warned that he would fight if the United Nations sent in troops. This left the United Nations out on a limb. If they went in it might lead to bloodshed; if they didn't go in they would lose face. In the end the United Nations call off their proposed entry into Katanga. Immediately this happened, Lumumba accused the United Nations of playing Belgium's game. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana said he was prepared to send troops to the Congo and that Ghana and the Congo would be prepared to fight alone against the Belgians and anybody else. At this point Russia stepped in and accused the Belgians of trying to reimpose their imperialism on the Congo. Then, while Prime Minister

Lumumba was visiting the United States and parts of Africa last week, President Kasavubu's dominant Abako party passed a vote of no-confidence in Lumumba's government. They said Lumumba was unable to ensure the security of the country. They sent a telegram to the Security Council of the United Nations saying that the only way to solve the Congo crisis was to set up a series of independent Congo states each of which would be completely self-governing in all matters but having links with each other. In other words, President Kasavubu now wants to see the powers of the central government either drastically reduced or completely abolished. On top of this the Youth Movement of Kasavubu's party has also asked the United Nations to withdraw Ghana's troops from the Congo as they were interfering in the internal affairs of the Congo.

So there you have it and the Congo situation adds up to just about the biggest mess to be found anywhere in the world today. But to those who want to condemn the Congolese I would say: remember the background which led to this situation. It is a background created by the most ruthless imperialism of the 20th century, that of the Belgians. And what of the future?

I think if the government of Patrice Lumumba falls the Congo might start back on the road to peace and order. Kasavubu sounds as though he has more of an idea of how to govern. At present the machine of government has completely broken down. Only in Tshombe's Katanga are things orderly and peaceful. To help solve the Congo problem is going to demand all the skill and patience of the United Nations; and it is going to be a long and hard job. I hope Khrushchev does not mess it up too badly. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Thursday August 11 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I should like to return to the question of the cut of the poor relief money paid to the more than 800 paupers on the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation's poor relief register. You will remember that it was on Saturday July 30th that I first talked about this. I told you then that the Poor Relief Committee of the K.S.A.C. had decided on this cut because, they said, government had cut their estimates by £3,000. You will also remember I told you that the maximum any person on poor relief could get had been 30/- a week and that had now been cut to £1 a week. You will recall that I expressed the view that cutting such a small sum by one-third seemed to me a dreadfully heartless act. Surely, I said then, cuts could have and should have been made elsewhere.

Well, I am now returning to the subject because of something said by the Mayor, Councillor Frank Spaulding, at the Corporation Council's monthly meeting on Monday of this week. At that meeting the Mayor moved the suspension of the Standing Orders to make a statement on the Corporation's Estimates for the year 1960-61.

Mr. Spaulding then went on to say that far from cutting the money voted for the Corporation this year, Government had given it 40,000 pounds more than it had last year. For this year, Mr. Spaulding said, the Council had asked government for £91,749 more than it received last year. Government had not given the Council all the additional money it asked for; but government had given it £40,000 more than it got last year. So the idea that government had actually cut the K.S.A.C.s money is not correct.

Having dealt with that, Mr. Spaulding then went on to explain the position of the money for poor relief or, as they call it (and I hate the word) for paupers. Last year, Mr. Spaulding said, the Council planned to spend £72,000 on poor relief. But at the end of the year they found that they had over-spent this amount by £6,000. In other words, they budgeted for £72,000 but ended up spending £78,000. So, this year, they budgeted for £78,000. They asked for £6,000 more than they asked for last year. But government only gave them £3,000 more. The important point to remember is that government has given them £3,000 more this year than they got last year. This year they will get 75,000 pounds for poor relief instead of the 72,000 pounds they got last year. But last year they spent £6,000 more than they got. And last year government stepped in and helped them out with this £6,000 they had overspent. Now, if they spend the same amount of money on poor relief which they spend last year then they will be out by £3,000. There you have the arithmetic of this whole business. And I suppose it is to cover this £3,000 that they would be short that they have decided to cut the maximum poor relief paid by one-third.

But whatever the arithmetic, I still think this thing is wrong and should not happen. Let us face it: we have just raised the pay of the police and wages are going up all around us. But the weakest and poorest are having their meagre income cut. I frankly don't like it. We are supposed to be a civilised community, not a jungle in which the weak are thrown to the wolves and only the strong are cared for. My conscience revolts against the cut in poor relief. I Hope yours does too.....Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Friday August 12 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: People who live in Kingston or in one of the other big cities of our island, and people who go about in cars ~~xx~~ tend not to think of the fact that ~~xxx~~ a very great majority of Jamaicans do not live in big cities and do not go about in cars. The vast majority of the citizens of Jamaica live in the country areas; and the vast majority of Jamaica's citizens do not own cars. We sometimes tend to forget these two very important facts. And so we are not always as aware as we should be of just how important rural transport is to the majority of our people. Now, suddenly, the importance of rural transport has been brought home to us in a most disturbing manner.

Today is the day on which the Magnet Bus Company, one of our most important rural transport organisations, is paying off all its workers. The company gave two weeks' notice to its staff of drivers and other staff on July 30th. The notice period ends today and a number of drivers, mechanics, office and maintenance staff will be unemployed. And one of our most important rural transport systems looks like coming to an end.

The story behind this is one of the simplest and at the same time one of the most complicated problems in labour relations. It is something which I think we ought watch carefully because I think it is something we are going to have to face again in the future. But let me tell you the outlines of the story.

The workers at the Magnet Bus Company are represented by the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union. A little time back there was a

dispute between the union and the company over wages and conditions of work. The two parties could not settle the dispute by themselves and so it was taken to an arbitration tribunal headed by Dr. Rawle Farley of the University College. The tribunal went into the whole matter and then came out with an award in favour of the workers. The award established the principle of an eight-hour working day. It said that any time worked over the eight hours must be paid for as overtime. It said that the workers should get double-time pay on Sundays and on public holidays. There are also other conditions such as lodging and subsistence allowances. Now all of these seem to me extremely reasonable conditions. Our workers are entitled to decent wages and decent conditions of work.

The trouble is Mr. Bromley Johnson of the Magnet Bus Company says he just cannot afford to carry on if he is to fulfil these conditions. The rural bus operators are still charging the same fares as were charged in 1937. In these conditions there is nothing else for him to do but give notice to his workers and sell out his buses. The union has protested bitterly about this. But let us face it: just as we cannot, in a free society, force a worker to carry on with a certain job if he does not want it, so we cannot force an employer to carry on with a business which he finds unprofitable. Mr. Johnson has every right in the world to close down if he wants to. Our problem is this: I think the workers' claims are just but Mr. Johnson cannot meet these claims so he's closing down. The other rural bus operators have said they too might have to close down if the same claim is made on them. So where do we go from here? I will try to look a little deeper into the matter tomorrow; so till then, goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Saturday August 13 at 6.15 p.m.
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: From what I told you about the dispute between the Magnet Bus Company and the B.I.T.U. as well as about the award handed down by the Tribunal, you will see that we are faced with a very real problem as far as our rural transport is concerned. As I told you last night, I think that the award made by the Tribunal was very reasonable. On the other hand, no reasonable person can quarrel with Mr. Bromley Johnson's view that since he cannot afford the new costs he is going out of business. Businessmen are not in business to lose money any more than workers work for no pay. This then is what you might call a dilemma.

Now as I see it, there are three aspects to this problem. First and most important is the aspect of transport for our people in the country areas. ~~Mr. Johnson~~ Magnet is the second largest ^{rural} transport operator in Jamaica. It operates 27 routes throughout the Island. These will come to an end. What is going to happen to the people ^{who need} ~~when the~~ transport along these 27 routes? and if the other rural transport companies do what Magnet is doing ~~and~~ go out of business, how are our citizens going to travel? To me this is the most important of the three aspects. I think it is no use blaming Mr. Johnson and his company for not wanting to operate at a loss. And I certainly think that with the general rise in ^{wages} ~~rates~~ we would be unreasonable not to expect the workers to want the increases. But when that has been said we are still faced with a very serious problem that the majority of Jamaicans, would not own cars and would not live in cities are going to suffer.

The second aspect of this problem is that of labour relations and the workers attitude to the employer. It seems to me that this is a problem which we will have to face increasingly in the future. The relationship between the worker and his employer should be something like a partnership for prosperity. In a partnership both sides share the responsibility for seeing

that a business flourishes. This is as much in the interest of the worker as it is of the employer. The bigger the profits the employer makes the bigger the share of those profits the worker can demand. If on the other hand the employer makes no profit or makes such a small profit that he cannot meet all his expenses and still have a little left over, then any demand from the worker which his expenses greater than his income is bound to lead to his giving up his business. And this of course, benefits neither nor employer nor in the long run the country. In the case of the Magnet Bus Company both the employer, the worker, and the public at large are going to suffer because this ~~very~~ aspect of the problem seems not to have been taken into consideration. What I am really saying is that our workers have as great an interest in the success of the business for which they work as have the employers. This is something we do not always realise. I think for the future well-being of the country it is important that we do realise it. I think our workers must face the fact sooner or later their wages must be related to the quality and quantity of their work. Wages must sooner or later be tied to productivity. Just as it would be wrong for any employer to make big ^{profits} ~~profits~~ and pay low wages so it would be wrong for any worker to demand ^{high} ~~higher~~ wages and give a poor and low output in labour. I think this aspect of labour relations, is one which our unions will have to face soon if ^{we} ~~they~~ are not to have a serious problem in the future.

The third aspect which this Magnet Bus situation high-lights is the straightforward problem of rural transport in Jamaica. I am not ~~dis~~satisfied that Government has given this problem the serious consideration it deserves. If this is an essential service then it should be treated as an essential service. Government should give ~~itself~~ ^{itself} powers to regulate such a service. If the service is going to be handled by private concern then it is Government's business to work out ~~fare~~ ^{fare} rates which will ensure the operators a decent profit and the workers a decent wage instead of only stepping in when there ~~is~~ a labour dispute. I hope the whole ~~rural~~ transport problem will now be properly looked at.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Monday August 15 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You heard over your radios and read in your papers this morning that the independent republic of Cyprus came into being this morning. Many of us in Jamaica have a special reason for being interested in Cyprus because it was from here that the man who ~~fixxily~~ contributed so largely to solving the Cyprus problem went.

When Sir Hugh Foot, one of the most popular Governors Jamaica has ever known, left us to become Governor of Cyprus, that little island was in the grip of a terrible violence, and terrorist murders happened almost daily in its streets. Many people here feared for the life of Sir Hugh and his family, and the whole position looked utterly hopeless. Few people could see any end, any way out of the dreadful crisis. The relations between Britain and Cyprus were hopeless. The attitudes of the Greek and Turkish Governments did nothing to ease the situation. Things looked even uglier than does the present Congo situation. Lawrence Durrell, that very fine English writer and poet, wrote a heart-breaking book on Cyprus called Bitter Lemons, in which all the tragic horrors came alive. Brother fought against brother; old friends became enemies for reasons they did not quite understand; and a terrorist army came down from the mountains from time to time to destroy and burn and kill. Young English soldiers were murdered without quite knowing why because they did not see themselves as conquerors but rather as friends of the people, there to keep the peace. Archbishop Makarios, leader of the Greek Cypriots was exiled. But that did not stop the Violence; he was brought back again

but still that did not help much. And then Sir Hugh Foot was sent to Cyprus.

Gradually he brought calm to the island; and over a period of time he persuaded Greek and Turkish Cypriots to come to the conference table to talk out their problems instead of trying to settle them with guns. And I am sure Sir Hugh also persuaded the British Government to revise its outlook on many matters. And so today Cyprus is independent and violence seems to have come to an end.

Cyprus is about a thousand square miles smaller than Jamaica. By our standards it is very thinly populated: it has a little over half million people. 80% of these are of Greek origin and 20% of Turkish origin. Back in the 1800s Cyprus was a colony of Turkey. The Greek Cypriots have always regarded themselves as part of Greece and much of the violence of recent years was because they wanted Cyprus to become a part of Greece. The Turkish Cypriots on the other hand, feared this and wanted no part of it. Britain first took over the running of Cyprus from the Turks in 1878 and annexed her at the outbreak of the first world war. She became a Crown Colony of Britain in 1925 and the disturbances began soon after. In 1955 these disturbances grew so bad that an emergency was declared. And now, on August 15th, 1960, thanks largely to the skill and the patience and the courage of Sir Hugh Foot, Cyprus is an independent republic among the free nations of the world. May her future be more peaceful and more prosperous than her troubled past was. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Tuesday August 16 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking.

Good evening: Last night I told you about Cyprus and the long and blood-stained road it had ~~to~~ travel before it became an independent republic yesterday. I also told you of the part Sir Hugh Foot played in the coming of peace and freedom to Cyprus. Well, independence in Cyprus means Foot's job ^{here} is over now. So what next for him? Where will he go next? What will he do next? I think this is important because we can now fairly look on Sir Hugh Foot as someone the Americans might describe as 'Britain's number one trouble-shooter' for her colonial problems. A 'trouble-shooter' ~~x~~ is a man sent out especially to deal with all the most difficult, tricky and hopeless-looking situations. So where Sir Hugh Foot is sent next could well mean that the British Government thinks that place might be in for trouble.

Well, it has been decided that Sir Hugh next job will be that of Governor of ~~Nyasaland~~ Nyasaland; so a fair conclusion to draw would be that ~~Nyasaland~~ the Colonial Office thinks Nyasaland has some tricky problems ahead of it, and that the Colonial Office hopes that Sir Hugh Foot will deal as successfully with them as he has dealt with the problems of Cyprus.

So let us ask ourselves what and where is ~~Nyasaland~~? And what are these problems which have led the Colonial Office to appoint Sir Hugh Foot as Governor?

~~Nyasaland~~ is the smallest country in British East Africa. It has 37,000-Odd square miles but more than half of that is made up of Lake Nyasa. The country is like a long stringbean with the lake running through its middle. It is a beautiful country, mountainous

like our own Jamaica and with lush and fertile green valleys. It has a population of about 2 and three-quarter millions. Of these about 5,000 are white and the rest are black. For every one white person in the country you have about 600 black people but until two weeks ago all the rules were made by the little white minority. It was the little white minority who decided that Nyasaland should become a part of the Central African Federation in 1953. The Colonial Office pushed this through against the opposition of the blacks. The black folk of Nyasaland wanted no part of the Central African Federation because the other two members of the Federation - Northern and Southern Rhodesia - practised racial and colour policies which were no different from the racial policies of South Africa. But until two weeks ago the interests of the whites were more important than those of the blacks. The change in outlook came about as the result of mounting violence by the Africans which led to the imprisonment of Dr. Hastings Banda, the leader of Nyasaland nationalism. When Mr. Macleod became Colonial Secretary one of the first things he did was to release Dr. Banda and start discussions on a new constitution. Just over a week ago the new constitution was signed. Now the Africans will have twenty out of the 33 seats in Legco. But the real power will remain with the Governor for the time being. And the Governor will be Sir Hugh Foot. How he will deal with the fears of the whites of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland who hate to give up their position as masters, and how he will deal with Dr. Banda's demand for complete independence, is something we will know over the next year or two. One thing is certain: Sir Hugh Foot's new job is as challenging as any of the other tough jobs he has handled in his brilliant career. And this one is complicated by sharp racial fears and racial bitterness between black and white in Africa. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Wednesday August 17 at 6.15p.m

Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: On Monday I told you about the Independence of Cyprus and last night I told you about Sir Hugh Foot's new job in Nyasaland. Tonight I want to talk about the thirteenth anniversary of the ~~the~~ independence of India, ^{which also fell on Monday of this week} I know that there are some of you who are not interested in what goes on in the outside world and who would prefer me to talk only about local issues. Local issues are very important; they affect our day-to-day living. International issues, on the other hand, seem far away and none of our business. So I can understand those of you who get a little tired of international issues and who only want to hear about local issues. But I think those of us who think in this way are wrong. I think international issues are very much more important than we sometimes realise. How and how much of our sugar and bananas and citrus we sell to markets abroad is often determined by what happens in politics and economics on the international scene. The fact that we are selling a lot of our sugar to the United States and that we may be selling a lot more, is the direct result of an international political situation which had nothing to do with us. The prices and conditions under which we will sell our sugar to Europe in a few years time will largely be decided by the relations between the sugar producing African states and the European Common Market. So, although we may not see it clearly at first glance, international issues can affect us very intimately. I think it is important for us to try to understand what is going on in the great wide world outside our shores. But let us not think of it only in economic terms. We are a part of the world. And if we want it to be a peaceful and prosperous world, then we must all become

our brothers' keepers.

And I think it is in this idea - the idea of being our brothers' keepers in international affairs - that India has been such a tower of strength and such a bright example of international morality in politics since she has been an independent state.

The voice of the government of India has been the voice of reason and tolerance in international affairs. Of all the governments of the world, the voice of the government of India was the first to speak out clearly and sharply and reasonably against colonialism. Before the Afro-Asian bloc became the power it now is in the United Nations, the government of India, first ~~in~~ through Krishna Menon (who I am proud to call my friend), and then through Mrs. Pandit, spoke for all the colonial peoples; and spoke against all forms of discrimination. And not only did India speak: she acted as well. Hundreds of Africans got their higher schooling at Indian universities on free scholarships. We here in Jamaica have every reason to be proud of the fact that it was our government which launched the boycott movement against the racial tyranny of South Africa. That movement is now echoing round the world. But we must never forget that it was the government of India that led the way and prepared the ground by her years of campaigning against that ugly tyranny.

Throughout her period of independence the government of India has worked for peace and understanding among nations and peoples. Her leaders have brought a spirit of true humanity into the business of government; and her presence has made the cold war less cold. I think India's Nehru is the sanest, wisest and most human political leader alive today. And I think it would do all of us, our politicians included, a great deal of good to know a little more of India and what makes her such a moral force in the world today. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Thursday August 18 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Yesterday was the 73rd anniversary of the birth of Marcus Garvey. And the day before, Tuesday, was the day on which the government of the ~~Federation~~ West Indies Federation achieved Cabinet Government and became fully responsible for the running of the internal affairs of the Federation. And yesterday we also had a special sitting of the House of Representatives and heard the British depressing news that the War Department had behaved in a manner more suitable for a ~~mean little~~ speculator in land ~~or a super~~ *than for a department of the British Government.* ~~blackmarketeer who had no scruples or conscience.~~

We in Jamaica have no national sporting stadium. In 1962 the Central American and Caribbean Games will be held in Jamaica. We will be the hosts for an important international sporting event. To put on the games without disgracing ourselves we need to build a decent sports stadium. But when the games are over the stadium would still be there and it would be for the benefit of all our people. The ideal site for this stadium government felt was a piece of land of some seventy ^{to three} odd acres ^{at Briggs Park} now held by the War Department. So government entered into negotiations to buy the land. The War Department was prepared to sell but its price was fantastic. It wanted ^{\$3,250} ~~\$3,250~~ an acre. And the attitude seems to have been: You pay our price or leave; we are not coming down. Mr. Manley told the House at yesterday's special meeting just how sordid and depressing the negotiations were. I think the price we are going to pay for this land is fantastic and I think ^{it is a pity I had} the War Department has ~~sunk to~~ ^{been so} ~~an all-time level of low mercenary mean-mindedness~~ in its dealing

with our government on this matter. This sort of thing makes for bitterness against Britain.

Now let us get on to something a little more cheerful and less depressing.

The coming of Cabinet government to the Federation on Tuesday of this week is a further step towards political independence by which the peoples of the ten islands ~~was~~ at present make up the Federation. It means the end of the Council of State which was the main body making policies for the Federal Government. Lord Hailes, the Governor-General, used to preside at the meetings of the Council of State. And as well as the Ministers of Government, the Federal Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary, also attended and took part in deciding the policies of the Government. In other words, a number of people who were not elected by the voters of the West Indies had a share in deciding the affairs of the Federal Government. All this has now come to an end. Only our elected representatives will now decide the internal policies of the Federal Government. The West Indies Prime Minister will preside over the Cabinet in place of the Governor-General. This is another important step on the road to independence.

And now a brief word about Garvey. Were he alive now he would have been 73 yesterday. But even though this great Jamaican is not with us, the great liberating forces he let loose are there for all to see. The forward movement of the Negro peoples in Africa, in America and in the islands of the Caribbean sea - these are the great monuments to the great liberating work of Marcus Garvey. He has been called 'The Black Moses' because he freed our spirits and that led to the freeing of our bodies. Garvey belongs to all history. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Friday August 19 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I should like to return to the subject of rural transport. But before I do so let me give you a little background to show you why I think this rural transport business is so important to all of us. You will remember that it was exactly a week ago, on Friday of last week in fact, that I discussed with you the problems presented to us by the closing down of the Magnet Bus Company. I told you then that the vast majority of our people lived in the country areas, not in the cities of our island. I also told you that the people of the cities often forget the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people in the country did not own cars. I said that these were things we did not often think about. These of us who live / in the cities and on the plains have a large number of amenities which are denied to our brothers and sisters in the country parts. We have electricity: in very many cases they do not. We have running water right inside our homes: often our country cousin has to carry water from a standpipe which may be more than a mile away from his home.

Now the social implications of these two very simple facts can be very far-reaching. Let us just think of them. In the house where there is electricity, there is light. Our children or we ourselves can read in the evenings without straining our eyes; and so we broaden our minds. Then there is the radio to keep us in touch with what is happening everywhere in our country as well as in the outside world. We are not cut off and isolated. Because of having electricity we are in touch with all the life of our country and all the ideas

(in some many places electricity is not available)

that are shaping its future. Electricity gives us that wonderful knowledge of being in touch with things. But where there is no electricity we are out of touch. The world is far away. Hardly any of the ideas shaping our country ever reach us, and we develop a sense of being separated, of being out of touch. This is part of the reason why there is still this wide gulf between the people of the plains and the people of the hills. It is for this reason that some people still talk about the 'two Jamaicas'. And I am sure that it was awareness of this that made government bring in the law that every village with 500 people or more should have electricity. We want one Jamaica and we want all of that Jamaica to be in touch with things. Simple things like electricity and running water in the house take on a new meaning when we see them in this light. They help to bring the plainsfolk and the hillfolk together as one clean and healthy people, well informed and in touch with things, jointly shaping a better future.

I think rural transport is quite as important as something to bring our people together and help create one unified society. It is important for our society that the countryman should be able to visit the city easily and enjoy what it has to offer and then go home easily with the knowledge that contact is easy and that he or she is not cut off from the rest of the country and the world. For these reasons I think it is important for our authorities not to let the rural transport system go on being as messy as it now is. I should like to see a fair and reasonable franchise given to one responsible company, which, while making reasonable profits, will serve the best interests of all Jamaicans. For the majority of our people good rural transport is quite as important as electricity and running water in the house. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Saturday August 20 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Most of you who were interested in doing so ~~xxx~~ have, I am sure, by now read the report on the Ras Tafari Movement prepared by three university scholars and published at the beginning of this month. This report has, I am very glad to say, had a very wide sale; and I think a large number of people now know a great deal more about the Rasta movement than they did before the report came out. I hope the Rastas themselves have read this report and I hope they have thought about it. I have already commented on that report at great length in three broadcasts so I do not propose to do so again. Instead I want to comment on a few aspects of the attitudes of some Rastas as they have struck me. I think that what I have said about the Rasta movement before is enough proof that I do not start out with any prejudices against the brethren. On the other hand I think the brethren must be told when they are behaving badly and irresponsibly.

I was very disappointed and very angry too when the official Rasta delegation which was supposed to see the Premier did not turn up for their appointment with him on Wednesday. To me this smacked of an off-handed and almost contemptuous attitude to the first citizen of this island. I did not like it one little bit. It was rude and it was bad-mannered and Mr. Samuel Brown's statement to the press did not make things any better. To say that their plans suffered a setback, perhaps through ~~xx~~ a misunderstanding between themselves and Mr. Manley or perhaps for other reasons, is in my

opinion to say nothing. If they could not see Mr. Manley ~~th~~ at the appointed time they could have got a message to him. Or if they could not get a message to him Mr. Samuel Brown as their spokesman could have apologised in his statement to the press instead of sounding off as though he were a little tin god. I think the brethern showed very bad manners in this business of not keeping their appointment with the Premier; and as someone from Africa I can tell them one thing and it is this: the Africans regard good manners as very important and this sort of behaviour will not get them very far if they get to Africa.

But it is not only the point of good manners that has upset me. As Premier Mr. Manley is the symbol of the people of this country. To insult or be rude or to be disrespectful to the Premier of this country is to insult or be rude or be disrespectful to all the people of this country.

Some of you may remember that some Rastas also showed a similar vein of bad manners when a Ghana ^{diplomat} told them some hard facts about Africa on Thursday of last week. This is not good enough. I would advise my Rasta friends to think carefully about this. If they want to be respected then they must give respect too. It would suit their best interests.

One last word: At the end of this month all your old brown £5 notes will become no good. ^{though you will still be able to change them at a bank} So if you have any hidden away take them out and have them changed. Or, better still, put them into a savings bank. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Monday August 22 at 6.15p.m

Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I think we should take another look at the Congo; but I think we should look at it from a completely different angle this time. We know the Congo is in an awful mess, and I have tried to explain the history behind this mess to you in a number of previous commentaries. I told you that a very great share of the blame for the present Congo situation must be placed squarely on the Belgians who in nearly one hundred years of their colonialism did nothing to help prepare the Congolese for independence. They milked the country dry and gave its people no training for future responsibility. All this I have told you.

Now the Congo situation has entered a new and very dangerous phase. And this new phase has brought the whole African continent smack into the centre of the cold war. But it has done more than that, it has created a very acute crisis situation inside the United Nations, and the danger of this cannot be over-estimated.

You will remember that it was Mr. Lumumba himself who, as Prime Minister of the Congo, invited the United Nations to send troops into the Congo. Mr. Lumumba's government could not keep the peace in the country so he asked the world organisation to help him to do so. The United Nations is made up of practically all the independent nations of the world. All the races of mankind are members of the United Nations. The result is that United Nations forces are men of all races and colours, working together as one team of equals whose duty it is to maintain peace and order wherever they are sent. It was such a force that was sent to the Congo at Mr. Lumumba's request.

There were black and brown soldiers from the Afro-Asian group of nations and there were white soldiers from the European and American nations. And straightaway something became clear and that was that Mr. Lumumba was trying to divide the United Nations forces along racial and colour lines. First Mr. Lumumba wanted the United Nations forces to be used according to his orders. He demanded that Mr. Hammarskjold, the United Nations Secretary-General, ordered the UN. forces to go into Katanga and force that region to submit to Mr. Lumumba. When Mr. Hammarskjold refused to do this Mr. Lumumba accused him of being a tool of the Belgians and of white imperialism. Lumumba then threatened to call in the Russians if the U.N. would not do his dirty work for him. Guinea, which can by now be described as a Russian satellite, backed up Mr. Lumumba's stand. And for a while it looked as though Ghana was going to do so too. And then, over the weekend, Mr. Lumumba demanded that all white United Nations troops be withdrawn and only coloured troops remain in the Congo.

So there you have it. The United Nations is facing a very tricky situation because Lumumba is trying to divide it on racial lines. It is a line that tempts some of the free African states. If this racial line succeeds the United Nations organisation might be so badly split that it might collapse. And if that happened the uneasy peace in the world might also collapse. And all this has been brought about by a man who seems to me to not understand the implications of what he is doing. I think Patrice Lumumba is the most irresponsible African who has achieved leadership so far. Our best hope is that his own people will take this power from him before he brings real tragedy to them - and to us. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Tuesday August 23 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I wonder how many of you remember the newspaper headlines of the weekend that has just passed. I only remember them because I have the ~~ap~~ papers in front of me. On Saturday the Gleaner's main headline was: "Powers Gets 10-Year Term". The next most important one was: "Lumumba Demands all white U.N. troops quit". And below that we had: "Russians Orbit Animal Ship". There were a number of others but these were the main ones for Saturday's Gleaner.

In Sunday's Gleaner there was a banner story reading: "Rastas tell Manley £20 million was given for ex-slaves". But the main headline for the day read: "Soviet dogs back alive". And events in the Congo again took a prominent place. As I told you, I can only tell you about these headlines because I have the papers in front of me. Unless we have the papers in front of us we find it very hard to recall the weekend's headlines or even yesterday's headlines. So much is happening all the time, there is so much news, so much movement that things become blurred very quickly. We get a form of mental indigestion because too much is happening for us to take it all in and hold on to it and make sense of it all.

For this reason it seems to me most important for us to try and bring some sort of perspective to our reading of the news. I think that if we have a basic framework of reference within which to set the news we read it might make a lot more sense. Of course, having this framework does not mean that we will remember yesterday's headlines any the better. What I think it will do is help us to understand the story behind the forgotten headlines and that in turn

will help us to get a better understanding of the world in which we live.

I have worked out a simple framework for myself in order to see the news in perspective. The first thing in my framework, and possibly the most important, has to do with what makes news. Whenever I read of all the terrible things happening all over the world; when I read of violence and murder and revolution and war, I always remember that it is bad news which makes good newspaper stories. The bad news, the shocking and the disturbing news always reach the newspaper headlines. The good news - news of happiness, of pleasure, of people creating things instead of destroying them - that kind of news hardly ever makes the headlines. Any time there is an incident of racial discrimination or there are racial riots, the papers are full of them. But when there are no racial riots, when there are no incidents of discrimination we do not have headlines saying how well people of different racial origins get on together. If we remember this it gives us a perspective which makes our world not quite as ugly as the headlines sometimes lead us to believe. We will then know that beautiful and creative things are happening in spite of the news.

Then there is this question of what value to place on the news. Here my judgement is very simple. I ask myself what do we gain by the Russians sending gogs into space? We gain knowledge of outer space; scientific knowledge is great advanced, all of which is good; but wouldn't it have benefitted mankind more at present if both the Americans and Russians had used all those vast sums of money to fight hunger and disease and homelessness on this earth instead of shooting it out into space?....I hope you see what I mean by having a perspective on the news.....Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Wednesday August 24 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: I am glad to see that the conflict between Mr. George Minott, the Superintendent of Public Cleansing, and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation Council looks like being settled at last. I am sure all of you are as sick as I am of this wordy battle which has been going on for so long. I am sure it will be a relief to all of us when the Municipal Services Commission hands down its findings on the whole business. As things are now neither Mr. Minott nor the Council have done their duty by the citizens of keeping Kingston's streets clean. And Mr. Minott has blamed the Council and the Council has blamed Mr. Minott. And the poor long suffering citizens who pay taxes have been the real victims of this scrap. The whole street cleaning business has been a disgraceful blot on the good name of Kingston.

Indeed, this whole business has brought the good name of Kingston into such disrepute that the August issue of Newday Newsmagazine has an editorial on Kingston under the heading: "Kingston, a worsening dump". This editorial invites the citizens of the Corporate Area to take a good look at the Corporation Council and to ask themselves a number of frank and honest questions about it. It points out that the Corporation has a staff of some 5,00 workers and that it spends roughly £2 million of the taxpayers' money every year. It goes on to say that the men and women who have been elected to run the Corporation for us are well-intentioned people but that their good intentions are limited by their abilities and by the political system

under which they were elected. And so the city is declining. There is nothing, the magazine says, that the citizens of Kingston can be proud of. What, it asks, is the alternative to living in a declining city?

It answers this question by suggesting that the citizens of the Corporate Area use the weight of their opinion to have the system changed. Instead of having the K.S.A.C. run by elected men, the magazine~~xx~~ wants a small group of specially selected experts to run the Corporation for us in much the same way as a private business with a board of directors and a managing director. It says let us by all means have a mayor but let him be no more than a ~~x~~ civi~~y~~ figurehead.

Now I understand and sympathise with Newday's impatience with the present mess in the K.S.A.C. When things look bad we are all tempted to go after drastic remedies. But I disagree with Newday all down the line. The Newday idea would strike death-blow at the principle of democratic local government. The road to democracy has been too long and too hard and too costly for us to throw it out now. In fact, I am convinced the Newday cure is worse than the Corporation's sickness. There is nothing wrong with the system in itself. What is wrong is that the system has not been properly worked and part of the fault lies with us, the voters. We have the power~~x~~ to demand that our elected representatives work the system better. If they don't we can throw them out with our votes. They are accountable to us. Let public opinion insist on ~~having~~ our getting a proper service from our local authority. If we insist strongly enough we will get it. But to throw out the democratic system itself would, I am sure be a terrible and dangerous mistake. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Thursday August 24 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: According to the last report I saw our tourist industry is doing very well indeed. I have the impression that the Jamaica Tourist Board is doing quite a good job of attracting overseas visitors to Jamaica, and that every year more tourists come here to enjoy our sunshine, our good Northcoast beaches and the good service they get at our hotels. Of course, they pay for these things: and so a very great deal of money - especially North American money - comes into the country every year. I think this is as much as most of us know or care about the tourist industry.

And of course, every now and then we have a Jamaican writing to the press complaining about some incident of tourist bad behaviour or about the way in which some Jamaican might try to fleece a tourist. You may remember that not so long ago one North coast gentleman wrote to complain of the semi-naked state in which some tourist women paraded through the streets of Montego Bay. I think it is fair to say that those of us who benefit directly from the tourist trade tend to approve of it; then there are others among us who do not approve of it. But I think the majority of us are frankly not interested. The majority of us couldn't care less whether we see tourists or not, so long as they don't interfere with our way of living. I do not think that many of us try to see things from the point of view of the tourists. And yet, it seems to me that the point of view of the tourists is something that should be important to us. After all, we are taking their money, and we are selling them the beauty of our land and our services. And when they leave our shores and get back to their homes you can be sure that they

talk about us and about the quality of service we gave them and about the prices ~~in~~ we charged them. And so an opinion is formed of us and our country. If the tourists have had bad and unhappy experiences then the picture they paint for ^{their} ~~the~~ fellow countrymen and women will show us in a bad light. I think this is particularly true of the not-so-rich and intelligent tourists.

I spent part of yesterday and last night with just such a group. They were American Negroes, not very rich, and they had come here on what is known as a package tour as a group of about 25. These were intelligent people, mostly teachers, and they were extremely interested in getting to know all they could about Jamaica. The leader of the group told me that when they visited Ghana last year they ate the native food of the country. Here in Jamaica on the other hand, no one had offered them any Jamaican foods. She wanted to know what our Jamaican dishes were and why our hotels did not offer them to tourists. Another lady wanted to know about our education system but none of the people concerned with the tour could tell her anything about it. They wanted to know how the country people lived, how they earned their living, how they spent their spare time. And yet all these people will see will be a few selected spots in Kingston, our north coast hotels and beaches, and very little of the real Jamaica. Now it may be that this is what most tourists want. Maybe most tourists do want to eat the same food they eat back in the United States. But I honestly doubt it. I think the intelligent tourist really wants to taste our food and to know something about us and the way we live. At present we offer such tourists very little. Not all tourists come here only to laze about hotels and white sand beaches. Some come with a genuine desire to learn as well, and it is up to those who run the industry to cater to this desire and so help better understanding among peoples. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Friday August 25 at 6.15p.m

Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: Four months ago, on the 8th of April of this year, I talked to you about what has become known as 'home leave' for our civil servants. 'Home leave' is the system by which civil servants in the higher posts of government can go to Britain or Europe every few years, ~~and~~ and have his first-class ship or plane passage paid out of public money. In other words we, the tax-payers, pay for this civil servant, his wife and his children travelling to and from Europe in a style and luxury that very few of our people can afford. When I told you about this in April, I told you the history of how this came about. I told you that it was a hang-over from the old colonial days when only people from Britain held higher posts in the civil service. I told you that the Englishman in Jamaica or in Africa or in India got 'home leave' because England was really his home, and also because in those days the Colonial Civil Servant was really a colonial master who got special and very superior treatment and privileges. But this, I told you, only applied to the English civil servant in the colonies. The English civil servant in England, working among his own people, got none of this 'home leave'. When he got his two or three weeks leave it was as you and I do, with nobody paying his fare ~~any~~ anywhere. Just as you and I have to pay for our own transport for that week at the seaside or in the country, so the English civil servant in Britain has to today, no matter how senior his position. It is only when he goes somewhere on his government's business that his government pays his fare or passage. I also told you then that both Trinidad and

British Guianam had abolished this outdated piece of public extravagance, and that it was high time for us to stop this 'home leave' nonsense here.

The reason why I have brought all this up again at this time is because of the news from ~~Barbados~~ ^{Trinidad} that the Federation of West Indian Civil Servants has just made a decision on the matter. ^{At its conference at the end of this month} The civil servants' organisation ^{will} expresses ^{its} concern at the moves now taking place to get rid of this 'home leave' system. They want it to go on, and they want it to be restored where it has already been got rid of. I disagree with the civil servants completely on this matter. I think it is out of date and a reminder of the old colonial days: I think it makes our civil servants too much of a special privileged class, and it makes for a division between the people and the public servant. We do not want public servants with the colonialist outlook of being our public master and as long as they get special privileges that outlook will remain.

In place of 'home leave' I think a new system can be devised so that the most gifted among our public servants, those whose talents promise that they will make a real contribution to our society, so such people can get the benefits and experience of travel and study overseas. I am sure none of us would object to public money being used to further the skills of the best of our public servants. This would be a selective method and the country would benefit. The 'home leave' business is indiscriminate. It is a waste of public money; it is an excuse for having a good time at the tax payers' expense. Not even the richest country in the world, the United States, ~~feels~~ ^{that} ~~there~~ pays the passages of its civil servants when they take holidays abroad. Certainly, we cannot afford it. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on

Saturday August 24 at 6.15p.m

Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: The sad and messy Congo situation is unfolding very much as I feared it would. Lumumba has embarked on a military adventure which has brought new bloodshed to that unhappy land; and the agenda for the Pan-African conference which started in Leopoldville on Thursday of this week is very disturbing. I think the idea of one African language to replace French and English for dealings between African states sounds more than a little silly to anyone who knows anything about the hundreds of languages spoken in that vast continent. And the idea of a Pan-African police force to keep peace on the continent will be a long time coming. The great question which we will begin to see an answer to after this conference, is whether the independent states of Africa are starting out on a new anti-white, anti-Western path. But let's leave that for the present and look at developments nearer home.

I think the next three months are going to be very dramatic and exciting on the Federal scene. All the straws in the wind suggest that a few surprises are in store for us before the year is out. I expect that the report ~~in~~ by the Working Party dealing with the economic problems of the Federation will be completed by the end of this month. And I shall be very surprised if this is not published for all of us to see. Then the government of Jamaica has promised that it will ~~be~~ put out a pamphlet explaining what it will cost us if we stayed in the Federation and what it will cost us if we decide to get out of the Federation and go it alone. This document is being prepared by Jamaica's Central Planning Unit and it will just give

us all the facts without taking sides either for or against. I understand we will get this pamphlet a good time before the referendum. This, I think, will be very useful to help us make up our minds and I am sure it is going to lead to quite a bit of argument.

But perhaps the most exciting and the most controversial issue on the Federal scene is the question of the future of Sir Grantley Adams, the Prime Minister of the West Indies. It is an open secret that a majority of members in the Federal Parliament, both on the government side and on the Opposition side, would like to see Sir Grantley removed from the office of Prime Minister. Indeed, I know that the question of just how he is to be rewarded for his services has already been discussed and thought about. Rightly or wrongly, most Federal M.P.s seem to have lost confidence in Sir Grantley's ability to lead the Federation. They tend to blame him for all the weaknesses and faults of the Federation. They feel that under a different leader the Federation might have done better than it has. And they make no bones about their feeling that Mr. Manley should have been that leader. At present the only person most Federal M.P.s feel would be acceptable as Prime Minister of the Federation is Mr. Manley. No one else. It was because of this feeling that there was so much interest in the meeting between Mr. Manley and Dr. Eric Williams in Antigua a fortnight ago. And last week even Sir Grantley hinted that there was a move to get rid of him. Will Sir Grantley fight the move? And will Mr. Manley answer the call? It looks as though Sir Grantley is getting ready to fight. And as for Mr. Manley, we know just how he can keep us guessing when he wants to. But I think the power moves have started and just how they are played out is going to make the Federal scene very exciting in the months ahead. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Monday August 29 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: As the discussion on Federation and the forthcoming referendum has gone on, one thing has struck me again and again. The thing that has struck me is this: most of us, indeed, more than 90% of us, are so ignorant about the other islands of the West Indies that it is not funny. And our politicians have not helped to get over our ignorance. Instead of giving us solid information on which to base our judgements, they have fed us the usual party propaganda and to a great extent many of them have only helped to confuse us instead of enlightening us.

For instance, if we were to be asked what we know of Barbados, we will trot out a few standard answers. We will say - and we will try to turn it into a joke - that Barbados and Barbadians are more English than the English; we will say that Barbadians cannot be trusted. And if we are pressed to give some solid facts instead our opinions, we will say that Sir Grantley Adams is the Prime Minister of the Federation and that Barbados is small and poor and backward. I think few of us will be able to go much further than that. A few bright ones among us might know that all of Barbados is smaller than Kingston and St. Andrew. And since last week's census news some of us will know that there are almost twice as many people in Kingston and St. Andrew as there are in the whole of Barbados. That, I am reasonably certain, is about as much as most of us will know.

There are so many things about Barbados - and indeed about the other islands - that we do not know, that I think we ought to stop and think before we pass judgement on them. I think if we knew a

little more about these other islands and their achievements we would be a little less sure that we are the best of the lot and that we have nothing to learn or to gain from them.

For instance, how many of us know that Barbados has her own oil refinery? Very few people, I am sure. Well, it is a fact. Barbados has had an oil refinery for more than a quarter of a century. While we are only now planning our refinery the British Union Oil Company of Barbados has been refining oil into motor gas and kerosene for so long that the people of Barbados have come to look on it as a natural part of Bajan life. And at the beginning of this year Barbados began work on a new refinery which is now on the point of going into production.

But you might think this is an isolated thing so let me give you another example. Did you know that Barbados has been using natural gas for heating and lighting and cooking for between 30 and 40 years. While ^{the majority of} our people still use charcoal for their cooking the average Bajan turns on his gas tap, strikes a match and lights it, and there is clean fuel for cooking. This gas is piped in much the same way as our water is piped. Those of us who use gas here know just how high the price of gas is in Jamaica. In Barbados, on the other hand, the gas industry was nationalised in 1951 and the price of gas is extremely reasonable and within the reach of almost every Barbadian. There you are. Just two facts about Barbados which I am sure most of us did not know. And there are lots of other facts about many other islands that we do not know. And sometimes, in our ignorance, we think we are ahead of everybody else. This is not always so. Just as they can learn from us, so we can learn from them. But first, we have to know them a little better. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Tuesday August 30 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: You will remember that it was on Friday, July 29th, that I discussed the Monroe Doctrine and Latin America. I told you then that Cuba had taken her charge of 'economic aggression' against the United States to the United Nations. The United Nations had decided that the Organisation of American States was best qualified to deal with this problem. You will also remember that I told you at the time that most Latin American countries had a sneaking sympathy for Cuba's defiance of the great United States, and that they were waiting to see just what the United States did. I went on to say that Russia's Khrushchev had created a very tricky situation for the United States and that all he had to do was to wait to reap the benefits. But Khrushchev would not wait. He overplayed his hand ~~and~~ by declaring that the Monroe Doctrine was dead. This, I told you at the time, was a big mistake.

Just how big a mistake Khrushchev made has now become clear. On Sunday the representatives of the 21 member nations of the Organisation of American States passed a resolution condemning Russian and Chinese Communist intervention in Latin American affairs. The Cuban delegates walked out of the Conference, and one delegation, that of Venezuela abstained from voting. But the overwhelming majority voted for the resolution. And the Venezuelan delegate, it now seems, did not represent the view of his government when he abstained. This, then, was the clear answer to Mr. Khrushchev's statement that the Monroe Doctrine was dead. The Latin Americans have told him firmly and clearly that it is not dead; and that they

and they alone are the people who are going to decide whether the Monroe Doctrine is dead or not. I think Khrushchev's big mistake stemmed from the fact that he did not understand the fierce determination of the Latin Americans to be their own masters, to decide their own fate for themselves. If it had been Cuba or Mexico or any other Latin American country which had declared the Monroe Doctrine dead, the picture might have been different. But it was Khrushchev, the outsider; and whatever the Latin Americans felt about the United States they were not prepared to let any outside power decide their policies for them. Also, they know that their freedom from outside aggression is guaranteed by the Monroe Doctrine. And so, in spite of their sympathy for the Cuban revolution they have come out firmly against ~~the~~ Russian and Chinese intervention in the region.

But I think it would be a mistake to see this as a complete acceptance of U.S. policy. There is still a great deal of pro-Cuban and anti-American feeling, especially among the Latin American masses. Indeed, the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Herter, was forced to make a clear statement last week that the U.S. will not attack Cuba. And what of the future? I think the situation is less dangerous now than it was before the OAS meeting. The decision to break with the Dominican Republic's dictatorship is a further advance for democracy in the region. And the U.S.-Cuban conflict will simmer for a long time but will not, I think, lead to fighting on a serious scale. There was a time when it looked as though it might. Cuba has expressed her determination to maintain relations with communist states but it does look as though the communists will make any major inroads into Latin American just now. Goodnight.

NEWS COMMENTARY

For transmission on
Wednesday August 31 at 6.15p.m
Peter Abrahams speaking

Good evening: If you are a driver of a car and if you ~~xxx~~ have driven on the Red Hills road you will come to a corner where there is a big sign. On the sign is written: "Drive Carefully: We Love our Children". I was thinking of that sign on Monday morning when I read the figures release by the Traffic Department on road accidents for the month of July. Twenty-five people were killed on our roads in July. This was fifteen more than the number killed in June. In other words in the month of July deaths from road accidents killed 150% more people than were killed in the previous month. Now these were living, breathing, loving people like you and I. Among those who died last month were somebody's father. Perhaps the only breadwinner in the family. For all we know the lives of some children have been messed up completely because of one road accident: a happy child is suddenly without security and has to leave the school where he or she attended because daddy died in a car accident and there is no one to bring in the money to pay for school fees or pay for shoes or even to pay the rent.

I think we all tend to gloss over these road accidents. We know it is bad; we know it is unfortunate; and every now and then we get shocked when it happens to someone we know rather well. But on the whole we do not seem to understand the stark tragedy behind these accidents. And so we deplore them and do little or nothing about them. I think if each of us really tried to see ~~xxxxxx~~ ourselves or our loved ones as the victims of these tragedies, we would want to do something more than stick a Pledge Safety Driver tab on our cars

and then feel free to break all the rules.

I think one of the main causes of our road accidents is sheer thoughtlessness. Our regulation speed limit may be 30 miles an hour in built up areas: but you do not shoot past a bunch of kids playing on the side of the road at 30 miles an hour - if you are thoughtful. You know that a child might suddenly dart into the road. And being legally in the right is cold comfort when you see a battered little body lying in the streets. So slow down when you pass children; come to a crawl. Their lives are more precious than anything. Then there are the clever people who will always tell you what good drivers they are and who have to overtake everybody else on the road, even around blind corners. These are the smart and boastful ones who, even if they don't kill, are responsible for many accidents in which others are killed. Too many of us become potential killers once we get behind that steering wheel just because we do not think. Many of us think it clever to disconnect our stoplights. Many of us park without parking lights at night. Many truck drivers see it as a fine game to run little cars off the roads. Nearly a thousand people were involved in road accidents last month. Most of them need not have happened if we had thought and acted thoughtfully and considerately.

Then there's another problem. Cars are coming into the island at the rate of about a thousand a month. This is a fantastic rate and I frankly do not understand what is going on in the motorcar trade. I think it is time government took a look at it. And I also think it is time we did something about the big American cars with their dangerous left-hand drive steering. Our roads are just not made for these monsters. I think government will be shirking its responsibility to the people if it does not look into this problem and try to make some sense out of it. Goodnight.