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Trinco coal power project

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Recently the Minister for Power and Energy, Karu Jayasuriya said at a press conference that the coal power project at Trinco had been abandoned due to objections from environmentalists. Here I recall for the information of the Minister of the high powered conference held by late President J. R. Jayewardene where eminent scientists, engineers - Sir Arhtur C. Clarke, Dr. A. N. S. Kulasinghe, Prof. K. K. Y. W. Perera, I believe even the present Honorary Energy Advisor, Dr. Mohan Munsinghe were present along with environmentalists.

At this conference, with all credit to CEB engineers and specially Mr. Carlo Fernando, consultant who worked enthusiastically, relentlessly to have the project going, invited the world famous consulting firm M/s Black and White of USA to explain the modern technological advancement in designing coal plant with little or no effect on the environment. This they did with visuals, vedio slides projectors to the entire satisfaction of those present. However, as this project was about to start, the eruption of terrorist activities made the govern-

ment to stall the project. If these facts were brought to the notice of the present Minister for Power and Energy, his decision would have been different, I believe.

The next objection was from the aquatic authorities regarding the Mussel Culture farm. This was to be shifted after the CEB agreeing to pay a sum of around Rs. 30 million, as far as my memory goes.

As far as the abandoning of Norochcholai coal project, the statement of the Minister is on policy matter, giving no reasons. Whether the policy is detrimental or favourable to the economic and social development of the country and its people, is a matter, we as voters have to accept as we are responsible in sending representatives to Parliament with full faith to perform a holy duty by the country. If their conscience is clear and this policy is for the well-being of the people and not political reasons on party politics, let us swim or sink with them.

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