

Coal power: Mawella preferred to N'cholai

The following excerpts from "The Island" newspapers indicate that a Coal Fired Power Station should be at Mawella near Tangalle Bay is preferred to the controversial site at Norochcholai which both the government and the Opposition have rejected for good reasons adduced by the Bishop of Chilaw, who is thinking rationally.

"The Island"-Monday October 18, 1999-Page 9-The present Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Mahinda Rajapakse had some interesting remarks about building up jetties and connected sea erosion. He said, "When the Queen Elizabeth jetty was being built in 1952 the foreign engineer had said that there would be heavy sea erosion in the South. After the completion of the jetty the same foreign engineer threw to the sea from the jetty, a bottle containing a note and cash Rs. 50 requesting the bottle to be sent to the Govt Agent of the area where the bottle will be washed ashore. After about four days it was washed ashore at Seenigama according to the people" (The Daily News Sept. 24, 1997). Today Seenigama Devalaya is far away in the sea. That is why the Bishop of Chilaw with conclusive proof is aware that St. Anne's Church is in danger.

Mr. Norbert Manatunga

"The Island"-13th May 1998-Page 8- The 4 km long coal unloading jetty can be put out of action by Terrorists-Mawella is safer.

"The Island"-23th October 1998-Page 8- The C.E.B. seems to overlook the fact that the coal unloading pier extends 4 km in to the Kalpitiya sea exposed to great danger by fishing boats loaded with bombs blasting the pier. The next best site to Trinco is Mawella. Here coal ships can be brought in to the Kaduwella Bay.

"The Island"- 26th January 1999-Page- (Editorial)-The cost of energy at Nochchakoli (Kalpitiya) Power Station will cost approx, 40% more than at Kalpitiya- D.P. Chandrasinghe.

"The Island"-31st March 2000

300 M.W. Coal Fired Power Station essential at the Right Place-Mawella Engr. D.P. Chandrasinghe.

"The Island"-Thursday 02nd September 1999-Page 8-Without Coal Power, Light will go out in year 2004-Dr. T.S.

"The Island"-18th March 1999-Page 9- President Ramos of the Philippines got the first unit of a 700 MW Coal Power Plant running within three years. We now have the prospect of having cheap electricity by year

2004, if meaningful action is taken by the government, Carlo Fernando.

"The Island"-Friday 10th June 2000-Page 8- A Trade Delegation from U.K. has mentioned that the Norochcholai Power Project does not provide for fully enclosing the transport and storage of coal as done in Britain.

"The Island"-12th June 2000-Mawella Station. This site proved better than Trincomalee-Coal Carrier Ships can be brought by the shore. As for Norochcholai site there is no need for 4 km long coal unloading jetties or constructing an artificial harbour. Sir Alexandra Gibbs & Partners and an Anglo Japanese Consortium stated that the requirements are available in simpler form-Civil Engineering, environment, electrical transmission, national development, than at Trincomalee. Land Surveys, geological investigations and sea depth studies were done. Earlier the Trinco Coal Power Consultants Black and Veatch USA when they were requested to consider sites other than Trinco stated that out of several sites identified by them Mawella ranked foremost Carlo Fernando.

D. P. Chandrasinghe
Former Chairman C.E.B.