

CEYLON *Today*

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Foreign Affairs

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The Colombo Plan

THE Colombo Plan which celebrated its tenth anniversary on January 14 is a plan for Co-operative Economic Development of South and South-East Asia.

The Colombo Plan had its inception at a conference of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers held in Colombo in January, 1950; The name "The Colombo Plan" is derived from the venue of that meeting.

The Colombo Plan aims at assisting in a co-operative way the economic development of the countries of South and South-East Asia which, though comprising only 6 per cent of the world's landmass contain over 25 per cent of its population. The area is rich in its natural resources, but poverty and low productivity, combined with high increases in population, have brought about a low standard of living for its peoples.

The emergence after the war of most of the South and South-East Asian countries as independent nations provided an impetus to the national governments to launch comprehensive programmes of development for improving their peoples' living standards. The C-Plan aims at assisting in this national effort.

The Foreign Ministers of Commonwealth countries who conceived the idea of the Colombo Plan at their meeting in Colombo in 1950 took note of the conditions in the area and the need for its development. The following resolution of the conference, which has now become historic, gave birth to the Plan:

"It was recognised that in the changing conditions brought about by recent developments in the area progress depends mainly on the improvements of economic conditions. The Conference was impressed by the magnitude of the contribution which the success of progressive policies in this area could make to the peace and prosperity of the world."

At a meeting of the Commonwealth Governments held in Sydney in May, 1950, a Consultative Committee was formed to make recommendations for the furtherance of economic development in South and South-East Asia. This Committee, at its meeting in London in September, 1950, drew up a blueprint of the Colombo Plan. The Plan, in its physical form, contained six-year development programmes of the Commonwealth countries in South and South-East Asia. It

identified the problems of the area and indicated the ways in which external assistance could help in its development.

When the C-Plan was drawn up in 1950, the members of the Plan were the Governments of the Commonwealth countries only namely, Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the United Kingdom with the Federation of Malaya and Singapore, North Borneo and Sarawak.

The sponsors of the Plan, however, at the very outset invited other countries in South and South-East Asia to join in this great co-operative enterprise. Very soon all the countries of the area entered the Plan and non-Commonwealth countries from outside the area, namely, the U. S. and Japan also joined.

Duration of the Colombo Plan

THE Colombo Plan when first drawn up in 1950 was for a period of six years ending in June, 1957. The Consultative Committee decided at its meeting in 1955 to extend the life of the Plan for a further period up to June, 1961. Further continuation of the Plan beyond this period was considered at the meeting of the Consultative Committee in 1959, and the Plan was extended until 1966. The Consultative Committee also decided that in its 1964 meeting it will decide for what period the Plan should be further extended.

Ceylon's Contribution

AN important development of the C-Plan is the growth of mutual assistance. Mutual assistance, on an increasing scale, is being provided by the countries of South and South-East Asia for the economic development of one another.

One result of the development of mutual aid is that the dividing line between donor and recipient countries of the Colombo Plan which was rather sharp at the beginning of the Plan is now gradually getting blurred.

India has provided both capital and technical assistance, while technical assistance has been provided by Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, Malaya, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The increasing development of national training institutions within the region gives the countries increasing scope for offering training places to other countries of the region under mutual aid.

Since the beginning of the C-Plan, Ceylon has trained 53 foreign trainees in the following fields: Co-operatives (23); medicine and health (11); engineering (9) transport and communications (5) food and agriculture (4) and public administration (1). An offer of training was also made in community and rural development. Two experts have been provided. Ceylon is assisting the Pakistan Government in coconut experimental work at its research station at Karachi by making available 5,000 coconut seeds and 5,000 coconut seedlings at a cost of Rs. 20,000.

Message from Ceylon P. M.

THE Prime Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake, in a special message given on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Colombo Plan said that the Government of Ceylon is deeply appreciative of the member countries who have provided very useful and valuable assistance, both technical and capital.

The message is as follows:

"International co-operation for the economic development of under-developed countries is a post-war concept. The principle of international economic co-operation came to be considered for the first time, in the Asian context, when the idea of co-operative economic development was conceived at a meeting of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers held here in Colombo, in January, 1950, under the chairmanship of Ceylon's first Prime Minister.

"Ceylon played a prominent role on that occasion. Within a year's time, the idea took concrete shape and emerged into what is now known throughout the world as 'The Colombo Plan'.

Far-reaching Event

"THE 10th Anniversary of the concept of the Colombo Plan is being marked today in all its member countries. The Government and the people of Ceylon have more than a mere sentimental attachment and interest in the Colombo Plan. The Colombo Conference was a far-reaching event in contemporary history. It was the first post-war conference which came to grips with the problems of Asia, which looked at these problems through the eyes of Asia, and in the atmosphere of Asia.

"The Colombo Plan partnership has grown in stature as the years have sped by. What was originally a Commonwealth concept has today become more wide-spread with a membership of 21 countries—of whom ten are non-Commonwealth countries. This is as it should be. All the countries of the region are now members while the countries outside the region assisting in this great co-operative effort are Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Throughout the last ten years the Colombo Plan has been a valuable instrument towards human welfare in this part of the world.

"The Government of Ceylon is deeply appreciative of the member countries who have provided very useful and valuable assistance, both technical and capital.

Ceylon's Contribution

"IN this great co-operative Plan it is important to remember, however, that the main effort is made by the 15 member countries of South and South-East Asia themselves and that most of these countries also extend mutual aid to one another. Ceylon has played her part in however small a measure, in the mutual co-operation scheme in offering technical assistance to a number of neighbouring countries of the Colombo Plan.

"There is no pretence that the Colombo Plan has found the solution to all the economic ills: but it can be boldly assured that this co-operative venture of faith and friendship has created a tremendous measure of goodwill and desire to work out problems together in the hope that we may bring about conditions of economic and social welfare for the benefit of the many millions in South and South-East Asia.

"The achievements of the Colombo Plan so far are impressive but the tasks ahead are many. Let us re-dedicate ourselves, to these tasks on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary."



The Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth who met in Colombo in 1950. The Colombo Plan had its origin at this meeting. The photograph shows (l-r), Front row : Mr. L. B. Pearson (Canada), Sir Percy Spender (Australia), the late Mr. Ghulam Mohammed (Pakistan), Shri Jawaharlal Nehru (India), the late Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake (Ceylon), the late Mr. Ernest Bevin (United Kingdom), Mr. David Doidge (New Zealand) and Mr. Philip Noel Baker (United Kingdom).

A Dream Come True

SIR PERCY C. SPENDER, Q.C.

HOW well I recall the meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at Colombo in January 1950.

It was less than a month after I had been appointed Minister for External Affairs for Australia. It was, I think, the first meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers to be held.

The Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mr. Senanayake, a kindly and wise man, unhappily no longer with us, presided over our deliberations with patience and wisdom. I recall how well a brew of Ceylon tea, judiciously called for by him at ticklish moments stilled ruffled feelings which occasionally revealed themselves. "Let's have a cup of tea" he would say whenever things got a little tense. Tea,

we found, is more than a stimulant, it is sometimes a sedative.

Striking Personalities

I RECALL too Mike Pearson, then and for so long afterwards, Canada's External Affairs Minister with whom I worked subsequently at so many United Nations Assemblies, a cheerful, pleasant and most able companion. It was there, that I met India's remarkable leader Mr. Nehru; brilliant, knowledgeable and informed, a philosopher as well as a statesman; Ghulam Mohamed from Pakistan later on its President, we quickly became friends; Ernest Bevin, tolerant, wordly wise and sagacious, I will always have a special spot in my heart for him; Jayawardena, Ceylon's treasurer, keen, efficient, resolute in viewpoint; and others with whom I worked over many years and all of whom have left their mark upon our world.

Looking back over many years spent in politics and diplomacy, in times of peace and war, I can say that nothing has given me greater satisfaction than the opportunity this historic meeting afforded me to advance in concrete form an idea—indeed an ideal—that had for some years been maturing in my mind: how could we assist the peoples of South and South-East Asia, desperately in need of help, to meet the tremendous problems bearing in upon them, to lift their standard of living, so lamentably low, and to develop understanding between Europeans and Asian nations and their peoples.

So was born the Plan first called after my own name, I am happy to remember, and, since September 1950 known as the Colombo Plan. The essence of the Plan put forward by me was, then and still remains, the two-fold concept of self and mutual assistance but without any political strings or commitments. From the beginning it was always contemplated that it should be open to all nations

of South and South-East Asia who were prepared to participate in it on equal terms.

At Colombo 10 years ago this idea, a dream of comradeship, young and full of hope was launched.

In the years prior to 1950, both before and after the last World War—which, let us pray, was really the last—I had seen something of the dire want of the people of South and South-East Asia. Compared with European countries, industrialised and developed, this part of the World presented a picture of disturbing disequilibrium, which in itself was a challenge to everyone concerned with world peace. Respect for the dignity of fellow humans, a belief in the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, demanded that something be done, and done without delay.

Not without travail

THE Plan was not born without travail. A little knowledge of the world teaches one how resistant some minds are to new ideas. There is always an initial inertia to be overcome, misgivings to be dissipated, fears of unforeseen commitments to be put at rest, reluctance to move too fast or too far to be off set. The Plan in its early days was no exception. But the enthusiasm of those who believed in it triumphed over all these.

One learns also over the years how easily brave resolutions and decisions can peter out into oblivion. The Australian Delegation, to the members of which I would like here to pay tribute for their devoted service, was anxious that, momentum for the Plan having been achieved, it should be maintained. The records of the conference will reveal that a detailed outline of what was in my mind was placed by us before the Conference. It was subsequently embodied in a resolution, co-sponsored by Ceylon and New Zealand. It was decided that the next step in carrying out the resolution should be with Australia.

Hence the meeting in Sydney in May, 1950, at which I had the privilege of presiding.

The Plan takes shape

I HAVE written a short history of these times which perhaps some publisher some day will think worth putting into print. But I can say that the meeting in Sydney—the first meeting of the Consultative Committee established at Colombo—was perhaps more important even than that at Colombo. It was in Sydney that life was breathed into the Plan. It was in Sydney where it was agreed that the Commonwealth countries should draw up development plans covering a six-year period from July 1st 1951 and that other countries in the area of South and South-East Asia, should be invited to take similar action. In Sydney too was launched, not without some difficulty, the Technical Co-operation Scheme, essentially an Australian idea, which has been so happy a feature of the Plan.

I am afraid some of my Ministerial colleagues who sat with me in Sydney, thought me at times a difficult chairman, and I know that some regarded my methods of achieving decisions not always orthodox. They were right on both scores. It was urgent that at that meeting, the solid foundations should be laid. No doubt the Australian Delegation was over-anxious for the success of the meeting.

In less than a year from the meeting at Colombo the life of the Plan was secure. In retrospect it appears as nothing less than extraordinary that when the Consultative Committee met in London in September 1950—the last meeting, alas I have had the opportunity of attending—that each of the Asian Commonwealth countries were able to submit detailed surveys of their six-year plans for development showing the extent of their capacity to carry them out from their own resources, and the degree of external assistance needed to enable them to do so.

I would not wish to single out any one country for special mention, but I am sure

that all those who met in London were impressed with the care with which the Indian survey had been carried out.

The Plan commenced its operations in July 1951.

At the London conference of 1950, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Thailand sent observers. They were able to make their independent judgements of the Plan and what it sought to achieve. It was not long before Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam became full members. Today its membership covers the nations of South and South-East Asia from Nepal to Japan, from Singapore to the Philippines and Indonesia.

It is sad that so little is known among the peoples of the Western World about what has been accomplished. It is to be hoped that time will quickly repair this deficiency. Let us hope, for the sake of all our peoples, that greater and continuing interest in what, to most people of the Western World, are far away places, will awaken very soon.

Technical assistance

I HAVE always had a particular attachment to the technical assistance side of the Plan, for here, perhaps more than elsewhere, human contact is most pronounced and flows from mutual interests in overcoming the problems nature has set us. There is something particularly fine and rewarding about men and women, drawn from each of the member nations, working in the field with those of other member nations in medicine, science, education, government, agriculture, engineering, communications, and other specialised and technical activities and the reception of young students into the university and training schools of one another. In this way, not only are trained leaders and skilled technicians created able to assist their countries at all levels and in all fields, but, perhaps no less important, lasting friendships are formed between men and women of all the member nations, misunderstandings are

(Continued on page 17)



The Gal-Oya Technical Training Institute, Amparai, which has received assistance under the Colombo Plan

Birth of the Plan

J. R. JAYEWARDENE *

IT may interest my readers if I give an account of the birth of the Colombo Plan. At the Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Colombo in 1950, while addressing the delegates I emphasised the similarity of the conditions prevailing in all the South-East Asian countries that had recently gained freedom. They needed both capital and cadre from outside if rapid progress was to be achieved in economic development. The new democracies of Asia could not keep the people on their side unless they "delivered the goods", and that, too, early.

As I thought of Ceylon's economy and its future development in this context, I was

struck by the rapid progress West Europe had made during the years she received aid under the Marshall Plan. I remembered a conversation I had with a leading industrialist in Brussels, during my visit there in April 1948: "If Stalin marches through Europe today, within 24 hours he will be at the British Channel; there is nothing to stop him." West Europe had no armies or any other defences, and her industries were still lying paralysed after the war. I recalled also the tremendous changes I found in Europe during my visits a few years later; how, apart from purely military defences which came through N. A. T. O., Europe's wheels

* Mr. Jayewardene was Ceylon's Minister of Finance at the time of the inauguration of the Colombo Plan.

of industry were humming once again, and there was new life and hope in the minds and hearts of the people. The aid given under the Marshall Plan was largely responsible for this recovery. Of course, the problem was not the same here. Europe was a highly industrialised region. She only needed the machinery to replace her damaged ones or the money to make or buy them. She had the skilled personnel to man them and the markets to sell the goods produced. South-East Asia was under-developed. Money alone was insufficient. She did not have the men to develop her resources nor did she know exactly what her resources were.

Evolution of a Plan

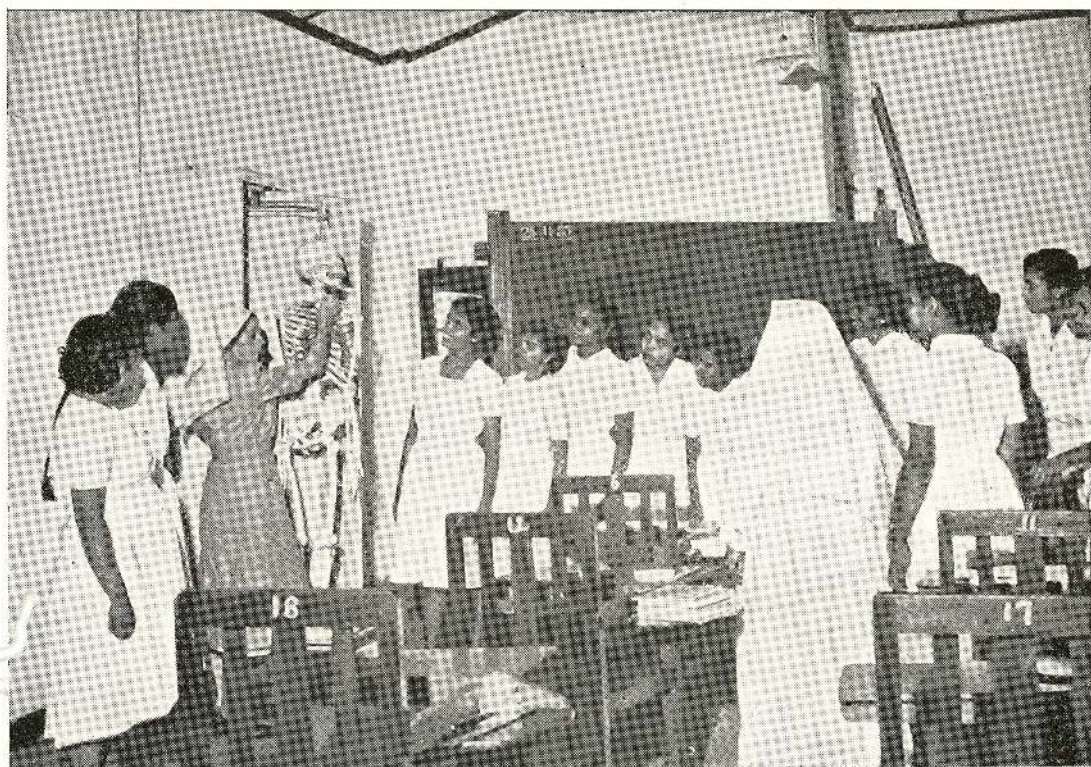
THE Marshall Plan was aid given by one country, America, to several. A plan on similar lines for South-East Asia could not

find such a generous giver. Such problems as these ought to be solved on a wider basis, and I suggested to the Conference three methods by which a solution of this problem could be reached :—

- (1) The under-developed areas of the Commonwealth should be developed. Each country should have its own field of national development, whether agricultural or industrial. The other countries of the Commonwealth should then indicate what capital goods they could provide since the under-developed countries were finding it difficult to get the necessary equipment in the Sterling Area.
- (2) The other Commonwealth countries should guarantee a market at fixed prices for the production of the under-developed countries.

The building which houses the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Ceylon at Peradeniya—a gift under Colombo Plan





T.B. Nurses under training at Welisara

(3) A start should be made in building up the Commonwealth as a single trading area.

In order to achieve this object, I suggested to the Conference the following draft Resolution :—

“To ensure a high and stable level of employment and to raise the standard of living of under-developed countries in South and South-East Asia, whether within the Commonwealth or outside it, it is necessary to develop their agricultural and industrial economies.

This Conference, therefore, agrees to appoint a Committee of officials of the countries concerned to obtain information and to prepare a Ten-Year Plan for the development of

these countries. The other members of the Commonwealth should consider means of providing such assistance as may be necessary for the implementation of this Plan with money, guaranteed prices, technical skill and machinery.

“The Plan should be examined by a Committee of Experts who, after visiting the countries, concerned, shall make recommendations with regard to the help which the Commonwealth countries can give in carrying out this Programme.”

Australia-Ceylon proposal

THE Australian Delegation, through Mr. P. G. (now Sir Percy) Spender, then made certain proposals on similar lines. The

Ceylon and Australian proposals were combined into a single whole and the two delegations produced, in consultation with the New Zealand delegation, a joint recommendation. With a few amendments these recommendations were accepted for transmission to the Governments concerned.

The Press Communique, issued at the instance of the Foreign Ministers at the close of their deliberations on the 14th January had the following reference to the question of the economic development of South and South-East Asia :—

“Executive decisions are not taken at Commonwealth meetings of this kind, but, as a result of the valuable exchange of views which has taken place, recommendations will be submitted to Commonwealth governments for the furtherance of economic development in South and South-East Asia. These include a proposal for the establishment of a Consultative Committee representing the Commonwealth governments interested in this area. It is contemplated that this Committee would hold its first meeting in Australia.”

Sydney Conference

THE Sydney Conference convened by Australia was held in May of the same year. As Ceylon's delegate, I took part in that Conference and the press statement issued at its conclusion summarises the decisions arrived at :—

(1) The Sydney Conference took us a step beyond the stage we reached at Colombo when, for the first time, the Commonwealth countries decided that the raising of the standard of living of the peoples of South and South-East Asia was of prime importance for the peace of the world and should be accomplished according to a plan within a definite period of time.

(2) The Colombo recommendations have now assumed the importance of a plan of development. Countries in this area have been invited to prepare plans for national development ; agricultural, industrial and social, covering a period of six years and these plans will be considered at another Commonwealth Conference to be held in London in late September. The fulfilment of these plans and the providing of external assistance either from the Commonwealth or from outside it will be finalised at this Conference.

(3) A Commonwealth Bureau is to be established at Colombo for the purpose of co-ordinating the work in connection with

A section of the Fisheries Station at Mutwal, Colombo which has been set up with Canadian Aid under the Colombo Plan.



the providing of technical and other assistance to the countries that seek such assistance in the development of their plans.

A conference of Commonwealth officials will be held in Colombo at an early date to consider the setting up of the Bureau and to carry out such tasks as may be entrusted to them until the rules governing the Bureau and its proper functions are finally settled at the next Commonwealth Conference. This Conference of officials will be a permanent one ultimately merging in the Bureau.

London Conference

The London Conference was held in September 1950. By this time the recommendations of the Sydney Conference had been implemented by the Governments concerned. Here again important decisions were taken. Rt. Hon. Hugh Gaitskell, the leader of the British delegation who acted as Chairman, in the course of his press statement, said :—

..... I think I ought to mention the names of two of the Ministers there who played a particularly large part in the conceiving of this idea. They are Mr. Jayewardene, the Finance Minister of Ceylon, and Mr. Spender, the Foreign Minister of Australia.

.....
 Consider, if you will, for a moment the immense size of this area, stretching right

across from the South China Sea on the one side, to virtually the Persian Gulf, one might almost say the Arabian Deserts, on the other, stretching from the Himalayas in the north right down to the shores of Australia and New Zealand in the south. It contains within it no less than 570 million people, that is to say, one-quarter of the world's population, and I do not think I need emphasise to you its immense importance both to world trade and also to world stability. Yet if one considers its importance, one cannot help being struck, I am afraid, by the low state of economic development which has so far been attained in these areas. It is indeed as low as anywhere else in the world. This is the region, this is the part of the world, in which the Colombo Plan, as we like to call it, is designed to operate.

.....”.

It was unanimously decided to call the report “The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia.” The idea that was conceived in Colombo, nurtured in Australia, and born in London, was named the “Colombo Plan”.

The fruits of ten years of selfless labour and generous giving can be seen by anyone who visits the countries of the area, and though the economic benefits may not have kept pace with the ever-increasing problem of the growth of populations, yet the Colombo Plan has not been without benefit to the millions in this area who lead their daily lives in toil and hunger.



A tutor from New Zealand instructs a trainee nurse at the Dental Nurses' Training School at Maharagama

An Instrument of Human Welfare

J. K. THOMPSON

Director, Colombo Plan Bureau

"THE peoples of Asia have long felt the pressure of poverty and hunger". So starts the original statement of the Colombo Plan—the Report of the 1950 Consultative Committee. Awareness of the needs of human beings and concern for their welfare set this enterprise in motion. Its achievements in nine years are not correctly

measured in totals of money spent, of experts provided or local people trained, but in the extent to which this pressure has been relaxed and the basic human needs of the people of South and South-East Asia are being met.

The 1950 pronouncements have never been surpassed nor superseded as statements of

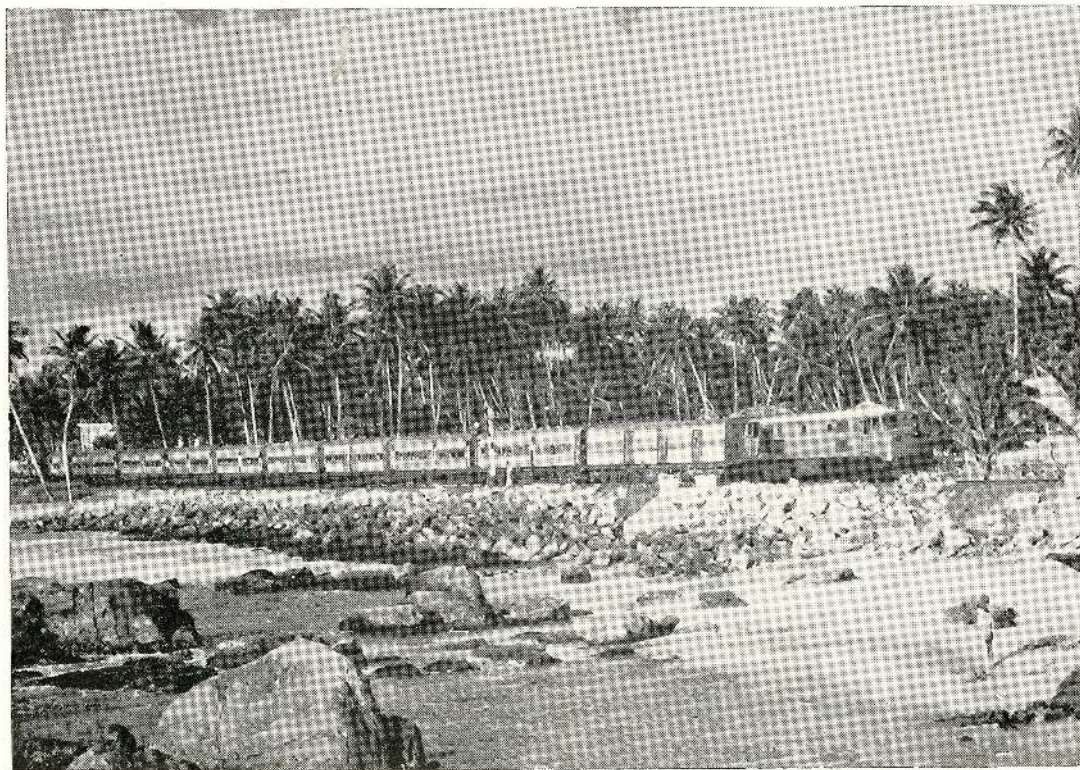
the underlying purposes of the Colombo Plan. They describe how the mass of the people of South and South-East Asia found themselves in the aftermath of world war, at an intolerable level of existence—intolerable not only to themselves, but also the conscience of humanity. To give them reasonable prospects of even minimum standards of human life and dignity was a challenge demanding a massive and intelligent response. A mere outpouring of money would not be enough, even if capital on such a vast scale had been available. Attitudes would have to be changed by the creation of hopes with reasonable chances of fulfilment. Latent abilities would have to be awakened and directed into new and unfamiliar activities. Aid would have to be obtained from outside without compromising

the new and cherished national independence of countries in the area.

Economic or Social ?

THE instrument devised to carry out this vast operation was labelled in the title of the Report and of the Plan itself 'Co-operative Economic Development'. To political thinkers, administrators and philosophers that is a pregnant and significant phrase. It will go down to history as the keynote of man's attempt in the 1950s to share the use of Science and Technology for the common benefit of all. To many millions of ordinary people, the phrase conveys little or no meaning. To others it signifies building roads, erecting dams and power houses, digging mines, equipping factories, establishing new harbours and at the same time

A Canadian diesel on the Southern Coast line of Ceylon



despoiling the countryside and disrupting the traditional way of life with little regard for the people most affected. Development means change and people everywhere resist change. They may want schooling for their children and better health measures for themselves and their families, but departure from their customary modes of life and changes in their environment disturb them. It is an essential part of the Colombo Plan to help them to see that economic development is the only way to provide the social services and better life they need—and at the same time to invite and equip them to participate in it.

The border line between economic and social development is largely a national one which can be adjusted at convenience. Sometimes it cannot be drawn at all. Consider, for example, the movement known as 'community development' which has grown up in recent years in many countries of the world, encouraging people to work together for their own well-being. The joint activity of the people is directed towards digging wells, building roads, introducing new crops, erecting dispensaries and schools. These remain as lasting assets, rewarding the people with better material standards of life. But, in creating them, the people have generated a sense of community with a consciousness of their own capabilities in relation to the resources of their environment. The means and the end are both economic and social.

So it is with the Colombo Plan. While the conviction remains in the minds of the partners in the Plan that the development of economic resources is the indispensable means to social ends, it is recognized that activities frequently classified as 'social', particularly the provision of education and health services, are indispensable to economic development. It is significant that education and health are first and third respectively in the order of subjects for which training places were provided last

year under the Colombo Plan; Engineering and Administration were second and fourth. So 'co-operative economic development' under the Plan in practice includes direct action in the social field.

Health activities

SPACE does not permit more than a few broad examples. The pioneers among the 18,000 people in South and South-East Asia who have gone abroad for training under the Colombo Plan were in the field of health—six students left Ceylon on March 3, 1951 to be trained in New Zealand as School Dental Nurses. Since those early beginnings New Zealand has maintained an active interest in the health of the region notably a Colombo Plan grant of £ 1 million for establishment of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, a centre for advanced training and medical research in Delhi. The United States has assisted India, Indonesia, Ceylon, Cambodia, Laos, North Borneo, Sarawak, Vietnam and Nepal to turn their malaria control activities into programmes for malaria eradication, with striking results: the annual number of malaria cases in India, for example, has been reduced from 75 million to 20 million in the space of only seven years. Australia and the United Kingdom have contributed to the attack on tuberculosis in South and South-East Asia. Aid to Ceylon in the form of training and equipment for tuberculosis work provided by Australia, for example, has enabled Ceylon in her turn to offer training in tuberculosis nursing to other countries in the area. The United Kingdom has provided equipment to chest institutes and tuberculosis sanatoria in India and has accepted medical officers from India, Nepal and Thailand for training in tuberculosis control work. Japan is assisting the efforts of the Government of Indonesia to overcome the incidence of tuberculosis by combining surgical treatment with traditional methods. Canada has supplied cobalt therapy units, coupled with



An Australian Nursing Sister at the Children's T. B. Hospital at Welisara

expert demonstration and training in their use, to Burma, India and Ceylon. Help has been given in the development of indigenous medicine by the United Kingdom to Pakistan and Malaya and by India to Ceylon. The physical and vocational rehabilitation of the disabled at Solo in Indonesia has been assisted by Australia, the United Kingdom and India and it has become in its turn a centre for training for people throughout the Colombo Plan region. The training facilities provided under the Colombo Plan in the field of health range from the training of nurses and technicians to specialist courses in various branches of medicine and surgery and in the use of radio-active isotopes for medical purposes. Specialists are provided as consultants to advise the governments of the region on their health programmes and to help to build up university teaching in

medicine and surgery and to introduce advanced methods in hospitals and clinics.

Assistance to Education

IN the field of education, there is a tendency to use Colombo Plan co-operation primarily for vocational and technical training in the interests of expediting economic development; but the primary, secondary and university systems are not altogether neglected. The United Kingdom and the United States are contributing to university development in many countries in the area by supplying staff, equipment and books. The Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, is being established with an outright grant of a quarter of a million pounds from New Zealand. Secondary education in North Borneo and Sarawak



A section of the National Milk Board's Pasteurising Plant

is benefiting from New Zealand aid. Both Australia and the United Kingdom have provided English Language Teachers for Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, North Borneo and Vietnam. An interesting feature of general education in the area is that eleven countries avail themselves of Australian Correspondence Scholarships, provided under the Colombo Plan: the Federation of Malaya, which has been the heaviest user of these scholarships is now receiving aid from Australia in the establishment of a Correspondence Course Unit in the Federation itself. Another feature is the quantity and variety of aid given in the field of education by India to Nepal under the Colombo Plan. These are but a few current examples of the assistance which is being given to the building up in South and South-East Asia of sound educational systems which will bring

out the best in the human resources of the area and so enable them to enjoy a fuller life and at the same time to make better use of the material resources around them.

How effective is the instrument ?

YARDSTICKS are not available to measure the effects of these social measures and of economic development on human welfare in South and South-East Asia. If we quote the infusion of money or the numbers of persons trained since the Plan began, the figures mean little in relation to total needs because the needs cannot be stated in figures and are constantly changing; moreover, external aid is only a supplement and a stimulus to the local effort which cannot be accurately gauged. If we claim a share in the credit for rapidly decreasing death-rates in the area by

the action of economic and social measures, we must admit that we have correspondingly increased the human problem by an unprecedented population increase, much of it in the unproductive years of childhood and old age. If we claim that basic living standards are being raised where before they were intolerably low, we must admit also that we have contributed to the 'revolution of rising expectations' which is causing millions of people to raise their sights above mere subsistence as an acceptable aim.

While we assert, therefore, that much has been achieved under the Colombo Plan we point at the same time to the continuing needs; for 'developed' and 'under-developed' are relative terms and the goal

of human well-being is an elusive one. In an area where one-sixteenth of the world's land space contains over a quarter of mankind, increasing by ten million a year, the task remains a staggering one. It will not be accomplished without the combined efforts of the people of the area and men of goodwill outside it. The extension of the life of the Colombo Plan for a further period beyond 1961 is evidence that the instrument devised to bring co-operative human endeavour to human need in South and South-East Asia has only started to do the job for which it was designed by far sighted men ten years ago, but that it is doing it with a degree of efficiency acceptable to all the twenty-one partners in the Plan.

A DREAM COME TRUE

(Continued from page 6)

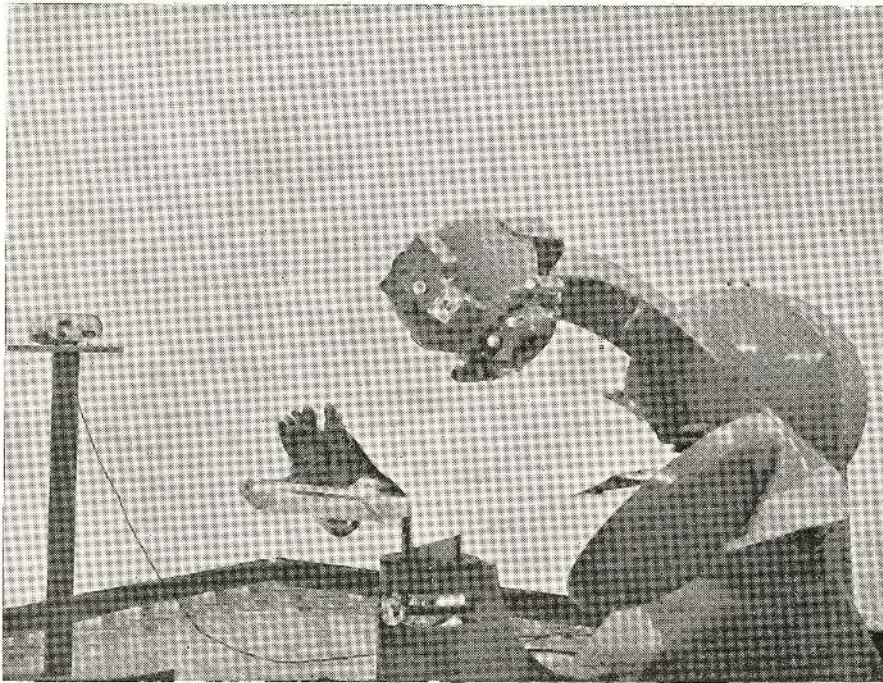
dissipated, and true human sympathy established between people working together to improve the lot of many millions of people so greatly in need.

The world cannot much longer hover on the brink of a nuclear precipice. Signs are not lacking that, little by little, the leaders of the nations of the world realise, not only that their people earnestly desire peace, but that peace is essential for the survival of mankind. No other course but the pursuit of peace is open unless civilisation is to be destroyed in the ultimate madness of nuclear war. Gradually, but surely, let us hope, the barriers of suspicion and distrust will be broken down, bit by bit the urge for power and national prestige give way to a desire to live together with the peoples of all

nations in human and friendly co-operation, so that man may dwell without fear under an international rule of law.

The achievements of the Plan are a guiding light in a troubled world, for they are eloquent of what may be done by human understanding and a desire to help. I am glad to learn that it has been agreed to extend its life until 1966. Much has been done, but there is still so much that needs to be done. My earnest hope is that it will continue indefinitely. The Colombo Plan is an experiment, an amazingly heartening experiment in human good-will and understanding.

For me the Plan is a dream come true. I am fortunate indeed to have been associated with it.



A patient being sprayed with Cobalt Bomb rays

Ceylon's War on Cancer

IVOR MURUGUPILLAI

IN all recorded history, no disease has baffled and stumped the learned men of medicine more than Cancer—the killer force which takes over 500 lives in Ceylon every year.

Yet, the enormity of the problem does not end here. For, the anti-Cancer forces fear there are thousands more, since the hospital figures are limited to only those seeking 'western' treatment.

And while the shroud of mystery fastens tenaciously round Cancer, the fact that the disease is closer our doorstep than ever before must begin to stir us, and create an unmistakable response amongst us towards every campaign launched to hold it at bay.

However, the mounting figures are no cause for desperation. For, nearly half the

Cancer victims in Ceylon can be cured. That claim does not come from the slogan-displaying quacks and medicine purveyors, but from the Ceylon Cancer Society—the foremost voluntary anti-Cancer organization here. The Society is confident that since over 50 per cent. of all Cancers in Ceylon are cases of Mouth-Cancer, these can be easily detected and cured without much ado. Furthermore, if the warning signs are heeded many of the dangerous internal Cancers can be diagnosed early and a "fair proportion" completely cured. And no woman need die of breast-Cancer.

Before knowing how this can be achieved, one must learn what exactly is Cancer? Cancer is a name applied to a number of different types of growths, each having a

separate cause and demanding a specific type of treatment. The disease takes more than twenty forms e.g. Mouth Cancer, Breast Cancer, Lung Cancer, &c. The question which Cancer detectives must yet answer, is. **WHAT CAUSES THESE GROWTHS ?**

The general cause

BUT the general cause is this ; Coursing through our bodies are billions of cells—the red cells, which carry oxygen, the liver cells which store energy and the white cells which fight bacteria. Millions of these cells are dying every second and are being replaced immediately by new ones. In the process of replacement, it happens sometimes that some of the cells undergo abnormal changes and too many of them arise at one site, causing continued irritation. Around this site of irritation eventually arises a mass of diseased tissue which medical men call a 'malignant growth'. This growth is **CANCER**.

This mass of diseased but living tissue depends for its sustenance on the healthy tissues of the body and therefore begins to interfere with the functions of the vital organs on which it is sited or those closest to it. And thus when the functions of these organs, always subject to interruption by the Cancer cease, the result is death. This at once accounts for the high mortality of the disease.

In Ceylon, the investigators have found that irritation in various parts of the mouth caused by tobacco, lime, arecants and other irritants used by betel-chewers all too often results in cancer of the mouth which accounts for 61.5 of all Cancer cases in the Island. Anything that may cause irritation like jagged or decayed teeth, or crude-fitting dental plates can bring this form of Cancer. Similarly various types of irritation, physical and chemical, can give rise to Cancers of the lung, the uterus, the breast, &c.

You must therefore become instantly suspicious of that sore in the mouth that does not disappear in two weeks, a difficulty in swallowing, that lump in the breast, or any hard growth that refuses to mitigate. Irregular bowel movement may be the first warning signal of stomach cancer while a persistent cough might herald the coming of lung cancer. You must see the doctor promptly without cheating yourself that you cannot get cancer because it is not in your family. Cancer is not hereditary and respects nobody.

But the tragedy of Cancer victims here is a story of delayed diagnosis and treatment. As in most other killer-diseases of Ceylon, the first ministrations are carried out by the quacks who thrive under a myriad of labels. Hospitals see the patient all too often in that advanced state from which there is often no redemption. **AND CANCER'S TOLL MOUNTS.**

With the growing volume of irritants around us, today like Radiation, industrial fumes, and chemicals, it is conceivably difficult to halt the rising incidence of Cancer. But whatever the mechanics of causation, the death rate can be lowered and the victims more expeditiously cured.

The fight on Cancer

CEYLON'S war on Cancer therefore is concentrated on the curative front on bringing back to health those who seek early treatment and mitigating the sufferings of the advanced.

Curative methods take three forms. In the first lap of the disease, surgery is used to remove the tumour (growth) and thereby stop the circulation of gland extracts which take the disease to the vital organs. This piece of operation ends the disease at this stage. To-day, the Anti-Cancer fighters have another great ally—the Cobalt Bomb, recently donated to the Government Cancer Institute

at Maharagama. Here I met last week a man who two months ago had lost his voice as a result of Cancer of the Larynx. But his voice is returning now and he speaks quite audibly. The magic was performed by the Cobalt Bomb which sprays tremendously powerful rays into the site of the Cancer, destroying the diseased cells.

This man had to go through a four-minute a day 'bomb treatment' for about a month and next week he is scheduled to get back home with his voice as strident as it was ever before. Many Cancer subjects like him are on the road to recovery because they sought the advice of the hospitals early. The very advanced cases have to be content with only palliative treatment designed to hold the disease at bay, but the painful death by Cancer is their ultimate fate. Their sufferings are softened by deep-ray treatment.

Modern devices

WHILE the most modern devices known to science are curing patients and allaying their

pains at the Cancer Institute, hard by a big mission of mercy is being carried out by the Ceylon Cancer Society. This spirit of mercy is seen in the hostel for Cancer patients built by the society recently out of public donations where difficult and 'special cases' undergoing regular treatment at the adjacent institute are fed and looked after by voluntary workers. It was here that the man who had lost and regained his voice received all the sympathetic handling he needed.

One's first reaction to the hostel is instant admiration for the group that runs it. Men and women are kept under surveillance in separate 'wards' maintained in an immaculately clean condition. It costs the society 3,000 rupees a year to keep this going.

When more money becomes available, the society plans to put up several more hostels for the convalescent.

Thus, the hope of quick recovery from Cancer is not illusion, particularly in Ceylon where most Cancers are regarded curable.

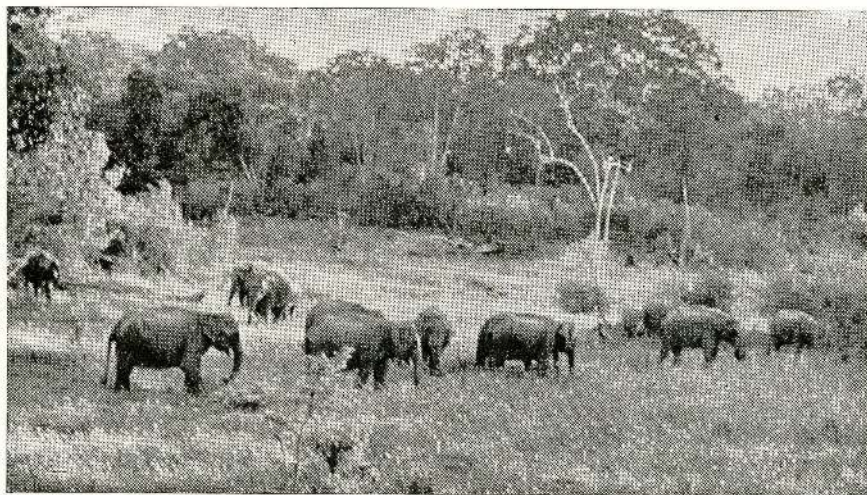
UNESCO Science Exhibits gifted to Ceylon

AT a brief ceremony held at Thurstan College, Colombo, early this month the exhibits displayed at the UNESCO Science Exhibition on "Energy and its Transformation" were handed over to the Ceylon National Commission of the UNESCO.

The UNESCO Science Mission in Ceylon has already provided equipment of tools and

materials for teaching purposes, books on science education, photographic equipment for recording and teaching, science models, and fellowships for overseas training and study.

The chief of the Mission is Mr. T. L. Green who was previously Professor of Education at the University of Ceylon.



A herd of elephants in the Gal Oya Valley, East Ceylon

Our Elephants

THE elephant is the pride of Ceylon. It is truly remarkable that this, the largest mammal on earth, is still extant in its wild state in this small Island, 270 miles by 140 miles—only half the size of England and Wales. It is our duty to do all we can to preserve it for future generations.

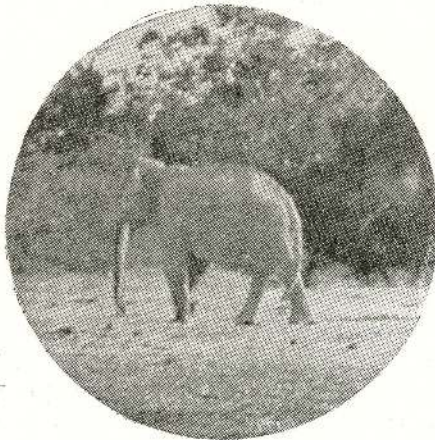
The elephant roams the jungles in small herds. It is captured singly or in numbers in kraals specially organised for the purpose. In former days it was found all over the Island and even commonly in the hills. By the opening up of our highlands for tea and rubber and the wet lowlands in the south-west for rubber, coconut and other cultivation, it has been driven into the dry jungle of the north-western, north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern parts of the Island and of the Sabaragamuwa Province. With further intensive activities since we attained self-government, with the opening up of land for the needs of man and with the shooting and killing that unfortunately takes place under cover of protection of crops and plantations—according to evidence placed before us

—the elephant population is fast disappearing. The opinion has been expressed that, unless its preservation is taken up seriously and immediately, the elephant, as one of the indigenous wild animals of Ceylon, will be wiped out within a few years. The Land Commission has expressed its deep concern at the alarming decline in the number of wild elephants in the Island.

Several representations, we understand, have been made to the Government from time to time that every urgent step should be taken for the preservation of the Ceylon elephant. One such representation is that of the Elephant Sub-Committee of the Wild Life Protection Society of Ceylon, consisting of Mr. G. C. Beaumont, Major A. N. Weinman, the late Mr. A. C. Tutein Nolthenius, and Dissawa S. Elapata, all men competent to express an opinion on the subject. We are glad to endorse their recommendations made in July 1954.

The selection of the Yala and Wilpattu Reserves for the preservation of the wild life of Ceylon was a wise one, though these areas

are not the most suitable for the purpose in the Island. But seeing that man's needs have to be given priority and the best lands available for cultivation should go to him, it was wise of those responsible to have selected these arid, unpopulated areas as their development can be postponed to the last. The elephants and other wild animals have now got used to these areas in spite of the poaching, illegal shooting, and other disturbances they are still subject to. We would strongly recommend that these Reserves be not interfered with in any way whatsoever except, if possible, to extend them further and effect improvements.



Wild Elephant

Additional Reserves

THE Wasgomuwa and Veddikachchi Reserves have been seriously encroached upon and cannot be maintained for the purpose they were reserved. While allowing those portions which have not been affected to continue as Sanctuaries we recommend additional Reserves in an area near the outlets of the Mahaweli Ganga, north of the Polonnaruwa-Batticaloa road, and in the Baron's Cap area, south of the road where the elephants find sanctuary. The Mahaweli Ganga basin is full of "villus" in which grass and vegetation are available in plenty

and the elephants have thrived to such an extent that in these areas they are called "marsh" elephants. We understand that a team of technical men are surveying the Mahaweli Ganga basin for the purpose of establishing large farms for animal husbandry. This is all to the good. But we would urge on the authorities not to unduly disturb the area now inhabited by the "marsh" elephant and to endeavour in their development plans to reserve these "villus" as a refuge for this species of elephant.

In the jungle an average elephant is very inoffensive animal, asking only to be left in peace. In our National Parks, elephants can be seen standing by, while a car full of visitors goes along the road. In the Gal Oya Valley, at Amparai, herds of elephants exist side by side with the human population. We ourselves saw, one evening across the left bank channel, two herds—each about fifteen in number—with young, standing unconcerned in a group while we stood on the road. The damage caused by the elephant is, we understand, negligible. It is said to be a fairly common occurrence for elephants to come over and play in the waters of the Amparai Tank right below the bungalow of the Chairman of the Board. The officials of the Board have agreed to have the whole area in and around the Valley declared a Sanctuary. This area has been compared by the Wild Life Protection Society to the area round the "Tree Tops" Hotel in the Aberdeen National Park in Africa—only 12 miles from the town of Nyres, which showed how near to civilisation even the largest wild animal can live when both they and their environment are not disturbed. Hence our strong recommendation is that, in the schemes to utilise the Mahaweli Ganga basin and the Maduru Oya for man, one or more areas be mapped as a Reserve for the elephant.

With the immense usefulness of the elephant to man and its capacity to be domesticated, we consider that an endeavour should

be made to breed elephants in captivity or in the semi-wild state. Money, will of course, be needed for such a purpose, but as we consider it worthwhile we recommend that a State-aided experiment be carried out and an elephant capturing-breeding—and training centre be established, as suggested by the Sub-committee referred to earlier.

We would urge that very early steps be taken to ascertain the elephant population and its distribution ; also that their migratory routes be determined with a view to confirming the jungle corridors necessary to enable them to pass from one Reserve to another or be driven along them when their haunts are threatened by agricultural encirclement.

We would also urge the banning of licences to individuals for the capturing of elephants for any purpose. Until the Department of Wild Life is able to build up an organisation of expert elephant trappers the capture of elephants should be entrusted to the Zoo

working in conjunction with the Department of Wild Life. All captured elephants should after a reasonable period of training, be auctioned and the proceeds kept as a separate account to reimburse the Zoo.

The issue of free licences for the destruction of rogue elephants should be stopped and the control and destruction of dangerous elephants should be the function solely of the Department of Wild Life. There is considerable abuse and cruelty under the present practice of issuing licences to individuals for the capture of elephants as well as for the destruction of dangerous ones. We further stress that the capture of baby elephants by private parties without authority should be completely prohibited. In cases of baby elephants found abandoned, the Department of Wild Life should make arrangements for taking them on.

Reproduced from the Report of the Committee on the Preservation of Wild Life.

Gift from German Government

HIS Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, declared open the Ceylon Transport Board's Training Workshop at Werahera on January 28th. The workshop is a gift of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Government of Ceylon. Costing one and a half million rupees the workshop is a combination of gifts in kind in the way of machinery and equipment

and in expert advice from a staff of German instructors who will remain in the Island for three years.

The Governor-General thanked the German Government for this magnificent gifts and said that Ceylon will be greatly benefited by it. "We shall remember our donor with gratitude," he added.

Water Supply Development in Ceylon

WE reproduce below extracts from an article which appeared in the December, 1959 issue of the Contract Journal. It is a survey of Ceylon's water supply development, together with the historical background, climatic conditions and economic factors which have contributed to it. It is based on a Paper read to the Institute of Water Engineers in London. The authors are C. Rasiah, B.Sc., B.A., M.I.C.E. of the Government of Ceylon and H. C. Husband, B. Eng., M.I.C.E. of Husband and Company, Consulting Engineers.

Prior to 1947, water supply schemes throughout the island were the responsibility of the general organisation of the Public Works Department. Schemes were submitted by the superintending engineers, who were also responsible for roads and buildings in the various districts, to the head office of the Department in Colombo. Thereafter the works were carried out by contract or Departmentally, under the Department's overseer organisation. In 1947 only 23 water schemes were in operation throughout the island, including Colombo.

In 1947, just before Ceylon became an independent country within the Commonwealth, a separate Sub-Department of the Public Works Department was set up to deal solely with water supply matters.

From this time very rapid development has occurred in the water supply field. Designs have been completed for most of the larger towns in the island, and even in cases where such designs have not yet been finished a considerable amount of investigation and preparatory work has been done. A number of villages have also been provided with water, and schemes for over a hundred are under investigation.

A number of schemes including that at Anuradhapura have been carried out

departmentally by direct labour, although the majority have been constructed by contract.

River Intake Schemes

A DEFINITE trend towards river intake schemes is clearly evident in Ceylon's water supply development, and this can be accounted for by a number of factors.

Experience in Ceylon has indicated the possibility of severe drought occurring over a small localised area when normal rainfall is being experienced by the country as a whole. Since the catchment areas of reservoirs are relatively small compared with those of Ceylon's rivers, it is now felt that the latter sources are more reliable.

In the case of the major rivers, the catchment areas are so large that even during the dry season the river flow is much in excess of the requirements of any town water-supply scheme at present contemplated in Ceylon.

Design of Intakes

WHILST an adequate volume of water can be assured in these major rivers, they produce problems in the design of intake structures, in view of the large variation of water level which is experienced between times of drought and times of flood. It has been found desirable to provide dry wells which permit the easy servicing of pumps, and to construct suction chambers with hopper bottoms from which sludge and silt can be removed by pumping.

Where intake structures are sited on the bank of a river, consideration must be given not only to scour of the normal river bed but also of the banks in time of flood. Wherever possible, solid foundations are taken down to bedrock within sheet steel pile cofferdams,

which can be cut off at river bed level after construction. In other cases, pile foundations are necessary which must be taken down well below scour depth. So far, no river intakes have been constructed on cylinders in Ceylon; but this type of foundation, which is commonly used for bridges within the island, might have useful applications.

High Turbidity

ABSTRACTION of water from the major rivers also creates problems concerning treatment, since the proportion of suspended matter can be as high as 8,000 to 10,000 p.p.m. in times of flood.

Turbidities much higher than the average may last for periods of from one to three weeks during times of heavy rainfall. This necessitates the provision of conservatively rated and carefully designed sedimentation facilities before filtration.

Up to the present time, aluminium sulphate has been used exclusively for coagulation in Ceylon, although consideration is now being given to the possible economic advantages of ferric chloride, which could be manufactured locally.

Economy

ECONOMY in capital cost is being achieved in these schemes by providing relatively small storage capacities and by reducing the diameter of trunk mains by the use of booster stations. The amount of gravity storage provided in the Towns South of Colombo scheme is less than eight hours' supply at the ultimate demand.

Where a relatively small amount of gravity storage has been provided, it has been necessary to allow for 100 per cent. standby capacity in pumps and motors, and to install diesel-operated standby generators.

This trend towards reducing first cost has been inevitable in Ceylon, where the amount

of capital available for development works is severely limited, even though the cost of operation may be enhanced as a result.

A further factor which has influenced the conception of many recent schemes has been the availability of cheap hydro-electric power from the Department of Government Electrical Undertakings. A large proportion of Ceylon's electric power requirements is already met by hydro-electric stations, and plans have been made for a rapid increase in generating capacity over the next five or ten years.

Towns South of Colombo

THE Towns South of Colombo scheme, which will provide 30,000,000 gallons per day for the densely populated 25 sq. miles in which the towns of Kolonnawa, Kotte, Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia, Moratuwa, and Panadura are situated to the east and south of Colombo, is a typical example of these trends towards river intakes and economy in capital cost.

At the time the scheme was initially being considered the Government investigated three possibilities. One was to construct an impounding reservoir at Ingiriya, the catchment of which would have been contiguous with that of the Colombo Municipality's reservoir at Labugama. The second was to use the existing resources of the Colombo Municipality, augmented by a relatively small river intake; and the third was to construct a river intake on the banks of the Kelani Ganga a few miles upstream of Colombo.

A careful analysis of these three alternatives was made for the Government in 1951, and it is interesting to note that on a basis of a 4 per cent. loan repayable in a period of 20 years the cost per 1,000 gal. of water supplied was estimated at 6.7d. for the Ingiriya Scheme, 5d. for the Kelani Ganga pumping scheme, and 4.7d. for the scheme of integration with the Colombo Municipality. These

costs include filtration and treatment of the water as well as the capital and interest charges.

While the scheme of integration with the Colombo city supply seemed the most economical, it had to be abandoned due to certain difficulties in taking over the existing Colombo Municipal Water Department; and the Kelani Ganga river pumping and purification scheme was adopted. As is the case even in England, local political prestige sometimes overrules purely technical considerations.

The original Kelani Ganga scheme was prepared by the French firm, Messrs. Eau et Assainissement, on a basis of a consumption of 50 gallons per head per day (compared with 40 gallons per head per day for Colombo, excluding shipping and industrial use) and figures deducted from the 1946 census, from which the population forecast was 303,000. At the time construction was about to be commenced, the figures for the 1953 census of Ceylon were available, and these indicated a more rapid rate of increase in the population of the area than had originally been allowed for. It was therefore decided to revise the capacities of certain mains and reservoirs, to ensure that the scheme would be adequate without further extension or duplication for at least 20 years, by which time the population was expected to reach 440,000. Allowance has been made in the design for supplying certain additional areas, which will bring the ultimate population served to 515,000.

It was decided to proceed with this scheme in two stages, the first including service reservoirs, water towers, booster stations, supply and distribution mains; and the second, the river intake on the Kelani Ganga, the treatment plant, and the trunk main connecting these to the works forming Stage I of

the scheme. The first stage is now virtually completed, and during the interval of three or four years which will elapse until the second stage is commissioned it will be fed by water which is at present surplus to the Colombo Municipality's requirements.

The French consultants' recommendations regarding the intake for this scheme were subject to careful scrutiny, since in some respects they did not conform with the usual Public Works Department practice. Various alternatives and alterations to their design were considered, including the resiting of the intake at a point eight miles farther upstream. Eventually it was decided to adhere to the original site; but various modifications were made to ensure access to the pumping plant in times of flood and to minimize trouble due to the deposition of silt.

Stage I of the scheme includes a series of twelve service reservoirs and water towers, of a total capacity of 5.7 m.g. The five towns being supplied are linked by supply mains varying in diameter from 35 inches downwards. Three booster stations with a total installed capacity of 1,700 b.p.h. are provided to lift the water from the service reservoirs to the water towers which supply the high-level zones.

It was also decided to increase the minimum diameter of distribution main from 2.36in. to 3.14in. as it was felt that a diameter fractionally over 3in. was the smallest which should be accepted for a scheme of this nature.

An interesting feature of the scheme is the use of 35.43in. and 31.5in. diameter spun iron pipes.

The total cost of constructing Stage I of the Towns South of Colombo Water Scheme is approximately £3m., and this work will be completed early in 1960 within a construction period of a little under four years.



The Prime Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake, with delegates to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, at the party he gave them at "Temple Trees", Colombo, recently

Foreign Affairs

THE Third Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee was inaugurated on January 20th at the Galle Face Hotel by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Valentine Jayawickrema, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering including Cabinet Ministers, Justices of the Supreme Court and V. I. Ps. Representatives from eight Asian countries—India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, Japan, the United Arab Republic and Iraq—attended the conference which went on till February 3rd.

Mr. Jayawickrema stressing the role of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee in the moulding of legal thought said

that the countries in the East have for a long time felt the need for collaboration and mutual discussion in order that they may find the right solutions to their problems. "A common bloc of Asian and African States expressing their collective views at the U. N. could have a decisive influence in the deliberations of the Supreme Body and in the solutions arrived at by it in regard to various problems, especially those peculiar to Asia and Africa," he said.

Here are extracts from the Minister's speech :—

"Hon. President, Your Excellency the Attorney-General of the United Arab



The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, at the ceremony connected with the laying of the foundation stone for the Mausoleum which the Government is constructing at Horagolla to house the remains of the late Premier's body

Republic, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is indeed a very unique occasion in the history of this country. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee have accepted our invitation and have come here to discuss problems that will be of mutual benefit to all of us. This Committee has conferred a great honour on me in asking me to declare it open. I have also been honoured by the Prime Minister of this country in that he has requested me to represent him at this Conference. He is unable to be present here this morning owing to urgent matters of State. He will meet Your

Excellencies later on in the course of the week. It is indeed an honour for me to declare open this Conference which represents a galaxy of legal talent. We are indeed grateful to the various countries that have accepted our invitation.

"I must take this opportunity to express to Your Excellencies our deep regret for the postponement of the Third Session till today due to the unforeseen and tragic circumstances which we had to face towards the end of September last year, when preparations had almost been completed for the holding of the Session in November, I refer to the cruel

assassination of the late Prime Minister of this country, and the events that followed in its train. It is, perhaps not inappropriate if I say a word of tribute to the memory of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike on this occasion. His fame as an orator, as a champion of peace and a Statesman had spread beyond the narrow confines of our little Island. As a keen student of International Law and Politics the late Mr. Bandaranaike evinced great interest in the activities of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and was of the view that it could make a positive contribution to the moulding of legal thought in the same way as the Bandung Powers influence the shaping of International Politics. This Committee has by his untimely death lost a great friend and supporter.

"I, myself, am in entire agreement with the late Prime Minister's view in regard to the influence which this Committee can bring to bear on the development of International Law. I may also say that I agree with the

Chief Justice in this matter. The countries in the East have for a long time felt the need for collaboration and mutual discussion in order that they may find the right solutions to their problems. A common bloc of Asian and African States expressing their collective views at the United Nations could have a decisive influence in the deliberations of that Supreme Body and in the solutions arrived at by it in regard to various problems, especially those peculiar to Asia and Africa.

Full Programme

"YOUR Excellencies have before you a full programme of work which is more or less a continuation of the programme had in Cairo where you last met. There are certain problems the solutions to which will benefit not only the nations represented in this Committee but also other nations as His Excellency the Attorney-General of the United Arab Republic stated, just now. I see

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee in session at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo



The Governor-General speaking at the opening of the Ceylon Transport Board's Training Workshop at Werahera. The workshop is a gift of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany



some of the problems deal with individuals of nations in their relations to individuals or Governments of other nations. Our delegates will tell Your Excellencies what laws we have made to deal with such matters. They may have to be extended to cover other countries. There are others that Your Excellencies will have to consider and find solutions to the mutual benefit of all concerned. I feel certain that in the calm atmosphere of this country over which it is said that spicy breezes blow soft, Your Excellencies will have inspiration to find solutions that will be of great assistance to the advancement of the whole world in peace”.

The Leader of the Ceylon delegation, the Hon. H. H. Basnayake, Q.C., Chief Justice, said that in the three years of its existence a great deal has been achieved by the Committee not only in the formulation of the Asian-African viewpoint on international legal problems but also in the promotion of mutual understanding among the participant

nations. He hoped that as years go by this Committee will be representative of all the countries of Asia and Africa and will speak with one voice on their behalf.

Here is the text of the Chief Justice's speech.

“Ceylon is honoured by the third sessions of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee being held in Colombo.

“A special feature of this Committee is that it has as many homes as there are members. Its annual sessions are held in rotation in each of the member states, designedly for the purpose of fostering greater cordiality and friendship among them.

“In the three years of its existence a great deal has been achieved not only in the formulation of the Asian-African viewpoint on international legal problems but also in the promotion of mutual understanding among the participant nations. We hope that as years go by this Committee will be representative

of all the countries of Asia and Africa and will speak with one voice on their behalf.

“The Canons of modern international law were evolved by the nations of Europe and America at a time when the resurgent nations of Asia and Africa had no place in the Councils of the World. If by reason of that fact any rules of international law have become onesided, it is the function of this Committee to correct that defect and seek to recast those rules so as to give expression to their standpoint. International law is a virile living system that has been evolved through the years. Let it be understood that it is not our purpose lightly to reject those universally accepted principles which are hallowed by age. At the same time we shall not hesitate to declare our disapproval of those rules which on analysis are found to be not just and fair to all.

Spirit of Understanding

“OUR approach to the problems before us has always been characterized by a spirit of understanding and friendliness, and we hope that the Colombo sessions will mark a further stage in that accord and amity.

“To my fellow delegates from Burma, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan Pakistan, and the United Arab Republic, and the observer from Iran, I extend a cordial and warm welcome to our Island. Nature which has been kind and generous to us has endowed our land with rare scenic splendour. We shall do all in our power to make your stay in our land, brief though it be, pleasant and enjoyable. The programme has been so arranged as to afford you every opportunity as far as the deliberations of the Committee would permit, of enjoying the beauty of our hills with their

The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, at the India Republic Day Party held in Colombo in January



veils of mist and the charm of our plains with their stupendous monuments of a by-gone age.

“To Your Excellencies and other distinguished guests, I render my most sincere thanks for your presence here this morning in response to my invitation.

“I shall now ask Mr. Hafiz Sabik, Attorney-General and Leader of the delegation of the United Arab Republic as the representative of our President Mr. Abdel Aziz Mohamed, to invite the Honourable the Minister of Justice to declare open this sessions.”

Trade talks with China

THE Ministry of Food, Commerce and Trade announced in a press communique on January 2, that finality has been reached in the negotiations between China and Ceylon for the renewal of the Trade Pact between the two countries.

The above talks were commenced on November 1, 1959, at Peking between the Ceylon Delegation led by the Ambassador of Ceylon in China and the Chinese Delegations led by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, People's Republic of China. The issues that were discussed were :—

- (i) The price of 80,000 metric tons of rice out of the quantity of 250,000 tons Ceylon agreed to buy on the Rice Contract for 1959—the price of this 80,000 tons having been left to be negotiated about September, 1959.
- (ii) The quantity and price of rice to be bought by the Government of Ceylon from China for 1960.
- (iii) The quantity and price of rubber to be sold by the Government of Ceylon to China for 1960.
- (iv) The approximate value of the Ceylon/China trade for 1960 including the value of the rice and rubber referred to in (ii) and (iii) respectively.

2. The negotiations were somewhat protracted and as no agreement was forthcoming particularly on the question of the quantity of rice and rubber to be bought or sold on a Government to Government basis, the officers who were sent from Ceylon to join the Ceylon delegation had to return by the end of November, 1959. The negotiations were, however, continued by our Ambassador.

A finality has now been reached in these negotiations. The Protocol for 1960, which will be signed soon between the two Governments will reflect the following agreement reached on the quantities, prices, &c. :—

Rubber to be sold by Ceylon on Government to Government basis

Quantity	Price	Approx. Value
17,000 metric tons	Singapore price 5 cents per lb. in respect of handling and other charges	Rs. 64,000,000

Rice to be bought by Ceylon from the Government of China

Quantity	Price	Approx. Value
160,000 metric tons	£30-1-0 per metric ton f.o.b. without bags	Rs. 64,000,000

In addition to the purchase and sale of the above commodities, China will be able to buy an additional 5,000 tons of rubber in the Ceylon market, the value of which she will cover by the export of Chinese goods other than rice to Ceylon. China will also be free to buy still further supplies of rubber in Ceylon in the open market for payment in acceptable currency.

The Chinese Authorities have agreed to the same price for the 80,000 tons rice that was outstanding on the 1959 contract. The agreed price represents a reduction of about 19 shillings per ton on the price for 1959.

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