

CEYLON *Today*

Conference of Six Non-
aligned Countries

United Nations and
Human Rights

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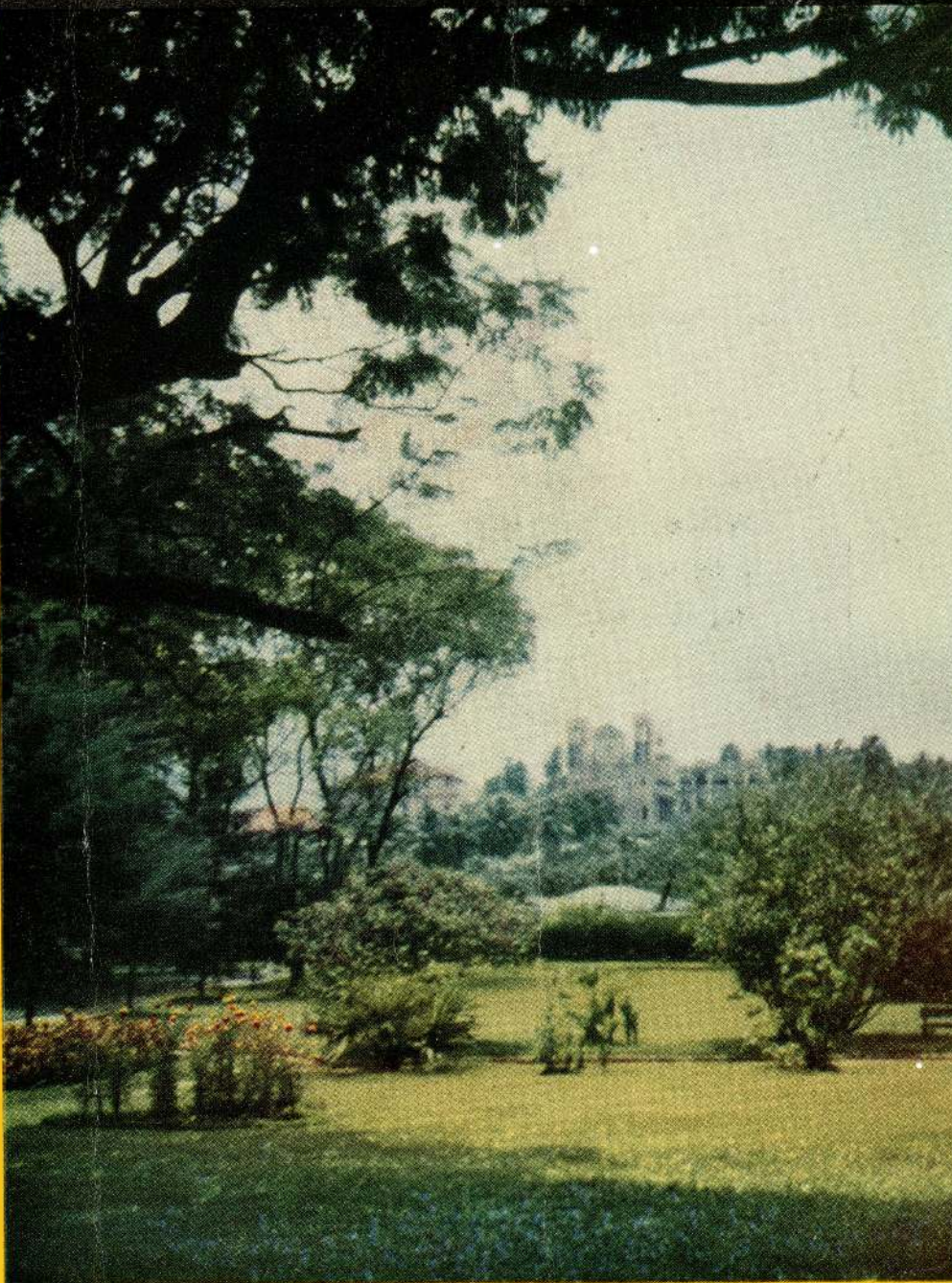
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DECEMBER, 1962

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Conference of Six Afro-Asian Non-Aligned Countries

COLOMBO, which was the venue of the Colombo Foreign Ministers' Conference in 1950, and the Colombo Powers Conference in 1954, was again the scene of another historic conference in December this year.

Six Afro-Asian non-aligned countries—Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Ghana, Indonesia and the United Arab Republic—met in the Senate Building, Colombo, on December 10th, 11th and 12th, to discuss the possibility of these countries making a joint approach to the Governments of India and China with a view to preventing a deterioration in the serious situation which had developed on the Sino-Indian border.

This conference was convened by the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

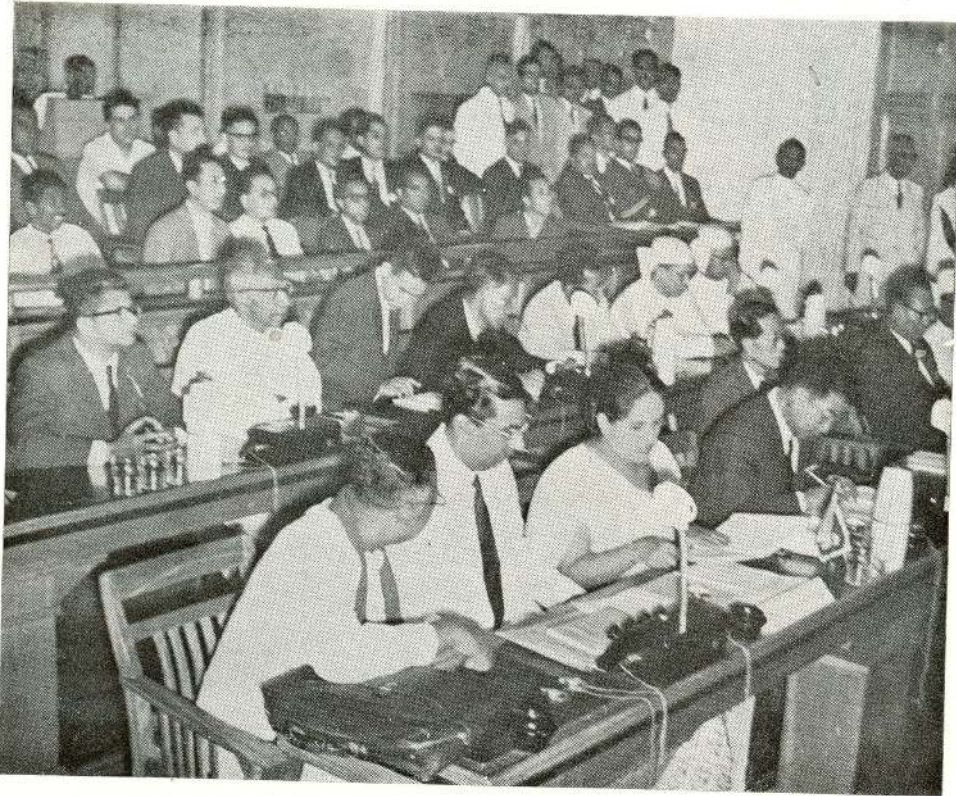
A communique issued at the end of the deliberations said that the six countries reached unanimity in regard to the suggestions which they propose to make to the Governments of India and the People's Republic of China in their attempt to bring these two countries together for negotiations to consolidate the cease-fire and to settle the boundary dispute between them. The

conference decided not to publish the text of their conclusions which are to be communicated to the Governments of India and the People's Republic of China lest premature disclosures prejudice their endeavours.

It was the wish of the Conference that the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, should visit New Delhi and Peking, in order to convey the results of the deliberations.

The Conference decided that their efforts in seeking to bring about negotiations between India and the People's Republic of China should not end with this meeting in Colombo, but should continue until the final settlement of this problem can be negotiated directly between the Governments of the two countries concerned.

The Conference commenced its proceedings with opening statements by the leaders of delegations. The leaders of delegations expressed concern over the developments which have occurred as a result of the boundary dispute between the two countries—especially as regards the implications of these developments for the future of peace not only in Asia and Africa but also in the



The Ceylon delegation at the Conference. The Premier, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, is third from left (front row). On her right are Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister without Portfolio and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence and External Affairs; and Mr. C. P. de Silva, Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power and Leader of the Ceylon House of Representatives. Also in the picture are the delegations of Burma and Cambodia.

world at large. They were of the view that these developments were a threat to Afro-Asian solidarity and the policy of non-alignment. They expressed the hope that their deliberations would help the two countries to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the border dispute.

A communique issued at the end of the first day's proceedings said the conference decided that its purpose was not to consider the merits and demerits of the dispute but to provide for an exchange of views in order to assist the two countries to resume direct negotiations with a view to arriving at a peaceful settlement.

Documents supplied by the Government of India and the Government of People's

Republic of China were placed before the conference.

The various delegations were led by the following:—*Cambodia* by Prince Norodom Sihanouk; *Burma* by General Ne Win, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council; *United Arab Republic* by Mr. Aly Sabry, Chairman of the Executive Council; *Indonesia* by Dr. Subandrio, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations; *Ghana* by Mr. K. K. Ofori Atta, M.P., Minister of Justice; and *Ceylon* by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and External Affairs.

The delegations started arriving in Ceylon two days before the Conference commenced.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and General Ne Win of Burma were given ceremonial welcomes at the airport with a twenty-one gun salute and a guard-of-honour befitting their status as Heads of State.

At the end of the Conference the Ceylon Government arranged tours to places of interest and many delegates availed themselves of this opportunity. They visited Kandy, among other places, and toured the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens and the University Campus. They were also present at a special exposition of the sacred tooth relic at the Dalada Maligawa.

Before they left, the Heads of Delegations laid wreaths at the Samadhi of the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, at Horagolla.

We give below the full text of the opening and closing addresses of the Ceylon Premier as well as the text of the two official communiques that were released by the Conference Secretariat on 10th and 12th December, 1962.

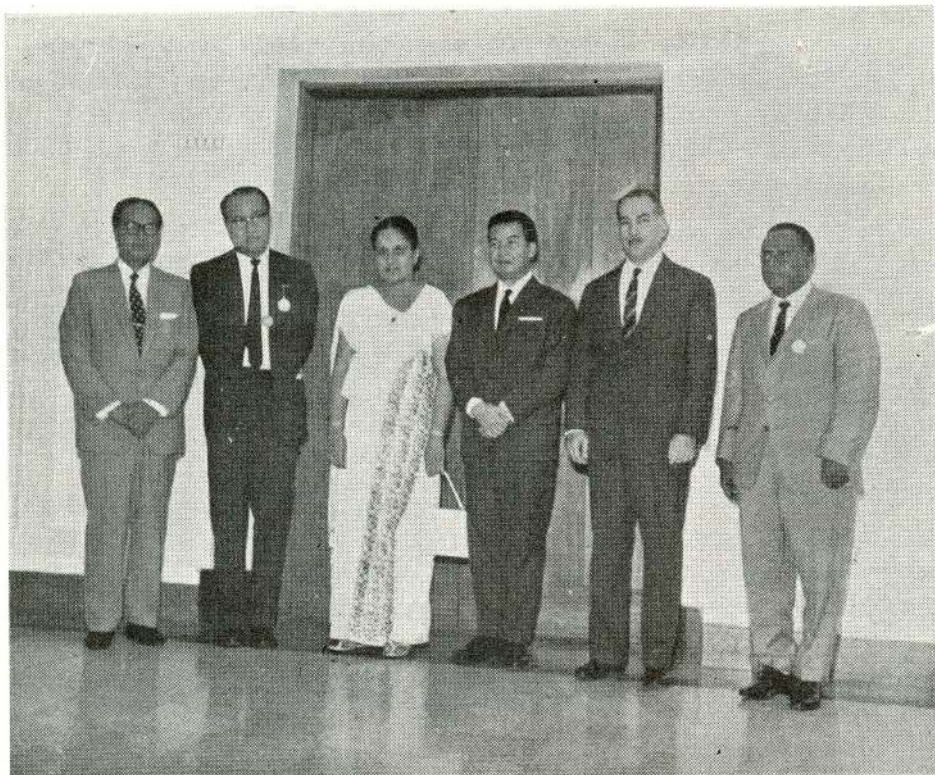
Opening Statement of Her Excellency Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon, at the inaugural meeting of the Conference of Six non-Aligned Countries on the 10th of December, 1962.

Your Excellencies,

IT is a great privilege for me and my country to welcome you this morning. I am deeply conscious of the honour which you have paid us in coming to this Conference in

The Ghanaian, Indonesian and U. A. R. delegations at the conference. On the extreme right is Mr. Ofori Atta (Ghana). Fourth from the right is Dr. Subandrio (Indonesia). Second from the left is Mr. Aly Sabry (U. A. R.)





The leaders of the Six Afro-Asian non-aligned countries which met in Colombo recently to discuss the Sino-Indian dispute. Left to right :—Dr. Subandrio (Indonesia) ; General Ne Win (Burma) ; Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike (Ceylon) ; Prince Norodom Sihanouk (Cambodia) ; Mr. Aly Sabry (U. A. R.) ; and Mr. Ofori Atta (Ghana)

acceptance of my invitation despite the short notice. Some of you have already visited Ceylon and others have not, and to all of you I extend a very cordial welcome and I trust you will find your stay here a happy one.

Our meeting today is a symbol of the mutual understanding and feelings of brotherhood which unite our countries in the spirit of non-alignment. This is the common faith which binds us together and gives us strength in our endeavours. We are faced today with a problem so grave as to brook no delay ; a problem which is a threat to our very existence and to non-alignment itself. It is my firm conviction that non-alignment and the future of humanity are inextricably linked together. In this connection, I must state that it is fitting that we should

be meeting in Colombo today. In our own small way we have played a decisive role in the history of the Afro-Asian World. It was an idea born at the Colombo Foreign Ministers' Conference of 1950 that later grew into the Colombo Plan, and has been of great benefit to the countries of South East Asia. Similarly, it was the Colombo Powers Conference of 1954 that led to the birth of Afro-Asian solidarity at the historic Bandung Conference, which has become a turning point in world history. Now, that we are faced with a challenge which cuts at the very roots of what we, the countries of Africa and Asia stand for, it is appropriate that Colombo must once again resume its traditional role in defence of Afro-Asian solidarity and non-alignment.

The border dispute between India and China, which we are about to discuss is the greatest challenge which non-alignment and Afro-Asian solidarity has had to face. For the first time, it is our misfortune to witness two great nations of Asia in armed conflict. We have seen how rampant nationalism and expansionist ambitions almost brought the civilization of Western Europe to the brink of destruction in two world wars. We hoped that the emergent countries of Africa and Asia, would profit from these lessons of history. We hoped that our national independence would become a means not of destroying one another but of opening a new era of happiness and prosperity to our people who have long suffered under oppression and exploitation by Colonial Powers. It would indeed be a tragedy if we allow a situation to arise in which war is brought into our midst and the energies of our countries diverted from economic growth to the horrible task of destruction. If this were to happen it will ultimately spell the ruin of us all, for modern war, as you know, has no limits. What is today a border war can become tomorrow a universal conflict, with all its implications, in this nuclear age. In the Sino-Indian border dispute therefore, I see a situation which is a threat both to our way of life and to the future of mankind.

The threat to non-alignment is not merely confined to the fact that there has been a negation of the agreed principles of 'Pancha-seela'. The Sino-Indian border conflict has also afforded an opportunity for the power politics of the cold war to penetrate as it were into the affairs of the Afro-Asian world. We have seen how India has been obliged to seek arms assistance from Western Powers and the eagerness with which this has been given. This kind of entanglement with power blocs would be contrary to the cardinal principles of non-alignment.

We have all been accustomed to regard India as the foremost champion of non-alignment. None of us can deny the great contributions which India, led by her distinguished leader Prime Minister Nehru has made in this respect. The concept of non-alignment and its moral force today is due after all in large measure, to the powerful advocacy of India and the personal example set by the Indian Prime Minister in his tireless efforts to promote the idea of non-alignment throughout the world. We should, therefore, make it our joint responsibility and a moral obligation which we owe to the cause of non-alignment to see that non-alignment is preserved. I do not doubt that the hopes and objectives which I have expressed are shared by the distinguished representatives who are present here. The problem which faces us is a very difficult one. The technical subject matter of the Sino-Indian border dispute is itself a complex one and it has been further complicated by the conflicting positions which now exist regarding the implementation of the cease-fire proposed by China. The immediate purpose of this Conference, as I see it, is to create an atmosphere in which the problem of the cease-fire and other related problems can be discussed amicably in a spirit of friendship between India and China. We offer our good offices as friends to both sides in this conflict because we consider that any dispute, however serious it may be and vital to the countries concerned, is still not serious enough to justify a resort to war and the abandonment of principles.

Our immediate task therefore is to address our minds to evolving an equitable and just basis on which both sides can be persuaded to accept cease-fire arrangements as a preliminary to settling down to the larger task of arriving at a solution of the border dispute itself. This is going to be our task in the next few days.

Each of us present here is only too well aware of the positions of India and China on the question of a basis for the cease-fire. By their unilateral decision to call a cease-fire, China has, I think, given an earnest of her intention to settle this matter on a peaceful basis. India, on the other hand, would like to be satisfied of China's intentions because she says she is the aggrieved party. We might also suggest what, in our opinion, is an equitable basis for a cease-fire line. We may also have to consider whether there are any suggestions for joint action which our countries can propose to ensure the continuance of a cease-fire pending negotiations between India and China.

I have attempted very briefly to highlight the basic issues, but I am aware that this subject is so involved that it does not lend itself to summary treatment. I trust that in the time at our disposal, we will be able to examine the question with sufficient thoroughness and offer some constructive suggestions for consideration by the parties concerned. If we can achieve this, we will have the satisfaction that by our meeting, we will have made a lasting contribution to world peace. Our Conference of course is not going to provide an over-night solution to a problem which will require much arduous and painstaking negotiations before it is finally settled. That is not our intention and we have no authority to adjudicate on the disputes of others. We are here to affirm our solemn belief and conviction that disputes between States is the common concern of all States and that these disputes must be settled in a spirit of friendship, and we shall endeavour to find a means by which India and China will be persuaded to act in this spirit. Much will depend on the success or failure of our efforts. The future of non-alignment and of Afro-Asian solidarity is at stake. The eyes of not only Africa and Asia but also of the entire world will be on us at this moment, because ours will be the first attempt to

approach this problem in the spirit of non-alignment. It is for us to demonstrate that the labours of over a dozen years during which we reared this edifice of non-alignment out of the Colombo Powers, out of Bandung, out of Cairo and out of Belgrade have not been in vain. Let it not be said that non-alignment was unequal to the challenge. Our task today is to save non-alignment because that is the only way of ensuring world peace.

We will thereby earn the gratitude of future generations and our conference will go down to history as a landmark in the overall endeavours of nations to achieve a lasting peace. Let us remember that over and above the Sino-Indian border dispute which is the immediate subject before us we are faced with the wider question of preserving peace in our time because the consequences of war are too catastrophic to contemplate. The consciousness of this fact should spur us on to make a success of this Conference. I wish it all success."

Statement of the Hon'ble Sirimavo R. D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister and Leader of the Ceylon Delegation, at the closing Session of the Conference

Your Royal Highness,
Your Excellencies,

We have come together again today to a final meeting of our countries at the end of the three days of our deliberations. My Government and I took the initiative in inviting you here because of our awareness of the seriousness of the issues involved in this conflict between two great nations, both of whom are our friends. The dispute between them had such momentous implications for all of us that we considered such an initiative on our part vital:

Excellencies, your response to this invitation has been not merely a matter of satisfaction to us personally. It has been a clear manifestation of the importance you attach, not only to the immediate issue of the Sino-Indian border dispute, but to the more far-reaching issues of non-alignment and Afro-Asian solidarity which we have, in several years of trial, accepted as the only suitable policy for the conduct of our international relations.

I want to express my deep sense of gratitude to you for having accepted our invitation, notwithstanding the many matters of State which require your presence and constant personal attention in your own countries. In the past we have had more than one forum for the discussion by non-aligned nations of problems concerning the peace of the world. Just as the Conferences at Bandung, Cairo and Belgrade have played and will continue to play a vital role in international affairs, I feel confident that this Conference of Six Afro-Asian Non-Aligned Countries will also make a useful contribution towards keeping alive non-alignment as a significant influence for world peace. I am indeed glad that we have decided that the efforts of our Conference should not end with our meetings today. Gatherings of Afro-Asian Countries have become a well-established tradition whenever our mutual interests demanded such consultation. I am confident that I give expression to the sentiments of all of us when I say that we will not fail to meet again if it should become necessary for us to do so.

When we met here on Monday, none of us under-estimated the immensity of the tasks before us. We were only too conscious that we ourselves could not directly intervene to settle the basic boundary dispute between India and the People's Republic of China. This task was essentially one to be undertaken by these two great countries

themselves. We agreed that our efforts should be confined to bringing together our friends to assist them to resume the task of negotiation. This, and this alone, has been our purpose—to lend our good offices to bring them back to the conference table. Even in this limited role, our task was not an easy one. We had to ensure that any suggestions which we made would not overlook what either India or the People's Republic of China consider to be fundamental to their national interests and their dignity. Bearing this in mind, and no less, the importance of maintaining our position as friends of both countries we engaged in these conversations. I think this Conference could claim that it approached these meetings at Colombo with the determination to reach an understanding which, we sincerely hope, would prove acceptable to both sides. The proposals which we have reached are not intended to be a final solution, but we sincerely hope that it will be a contribution which India and China will both accept towards a final solution. Our intentions were to consolidate the de facto cease-fire which has gained the acceptance of both sides—on terms which would not impair either the interests or the dignity of the two countries. If these proposals prove acceptable, we are confident that the necessary climate will be created for India and the People's Republic of China to resume negotiations for a peaceful settlement of their boundary dispute. If we realise this objective, I believe our work during these last three days would not have been in vain.

I do think that this is also an appropriate occasion to express some other sentiments which I think we share in common. As all of us said in our opening statements, the Sino-Indian border dispute was not without immediate implications to us because of the impairment it caused to the cardinal principles of our policies of non-alignment and Afro-Asian solidarity. I believe that our

meeting here in Colombo has at least prevented a serious compromising of these policies. To those who hastened to proclaim that non-alignment and Afro-Asian solidarity were passing into history, I think we can say that their prophecies were somewhat premature. Our Conference has shown that these policies are still a living force, and are capable of contributing something worthwhile to the maintenance of peace in our region, and perhaps in the wider world. I might add that we leave this Conference re-assured of the role which we can continue to play. This is amply demonstrated in the unanimity with which we have reached our decisions and no less by the spirit of utmost cordiality that prevailed throughout the three days of our deliberations.

I should like to say on behalf of my Government that we should have liked to have made better arrangements for this Conference, but we have done our best in the very short time available to us.

I would like to express my deep sense of appreciation to you for the honour you have done my country in entrusting me with the task of communicating the deliberations of this Conference personally to the Prime Ministers of India and China.

I join, with the leaders of other delegations in making an earnest appeal to the Governments of India and China to give their considerations to the proposals we have made to assist both these great countries who are our friends to find the means to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

Excellencies, I would like to conclude by expressing my deep sense of appreciation for your having accepted my invitation to this Conference and for the honour you have done us in being our guests. Our only regret is that your stay has been so brief, but even by this brief sojourn, you leave us with the happiest recollections.

First Communique

THE Conference of Six Afro-Asian Non-Aligned countries which met in Colombo today, commenced its proceedings with opening statements by the Leaders of Delegations. The Leaders of Delegations expressed their concern over the developments which have occurred as a result of the boundary dispute between India and the People's Republic of China especially as regards the implications of these developments for the future of peace not only in Asia and Africa but also in the world at large. They were of the view that these developments were a threat to Afro-Asian solidarity and the policy of non-alignment. They expressed the hope that their deliberations would help the two countries to arrive at a peaceful settlement of the border dispute.

The Conference decided that its purpose was not to consider the merits and demerits of the dispute but to provide for an exchange of views in order to assist the two countries to resume direct negotiations with a view to arriving at a peaceful settlement.

Documents supplied by the Government of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China were placed before the Conference. Discussions are proceeding.

Final Communique

THE Conference of Six Afro-Asian Non-Aligned Countries concluded their deliberations this evening. They have reached unanimity in regard to the suggestions which they propose to make to the Governments of India and the People's Republic of China in their attempt to bring these two countries together for negotiations to consolidate the cease-fire and to settle the boundary dispute between them. The Conference has decided not to publish the text of their Conclusions which are to be

(Continued on page 13)

United Nations and Human Rights

HUMAN Rights Day, commemorating the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations, was celebrated in Ceylon on December 10th.

A Poster (Art) Competition on the theme of Human Rights was conducted by the Director of Cultural Affairs. An exhibition of the best entries at this Competition and those published by UNESCO was held in Colombo on December 10.

An Open Competition for prose composition on the theme of Human Rights was also conducted by the Director of Cultural Affairs. An Essay Competition for school children will be conducted by the Education Department when the schools re-open in January.

The recognition, in the Charter of the United Nations, of the need for international guarantees of human rights, was the culmination of mankind's struggle, through many centuries, for the right to direct his own destiny with due regard to the rights of others.

Some of the landmarks in this struggle were the Magna Carta in 1215; the Habeas Corpus Act of 1679; the Bill of Rights in 1689; the American Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1789.

In the democracies throughout the world, where the ideals expressed in these documents were practised, the range of human rights was widened and the franchise extended. In course of time economic and social rights were added to political rights.

The denial of these rights by the exponents of Fascism and Nazism was one of the challenges which faced the Allied Powers during World War II, and it was

this challenge that inspired the framers of the Atlantic Charter of 1941 to declare that peace should be established on the foundation that humanity should be free from fear and want. The Washington Conference of 1942, the Moscow Conference of 1943 and the conversations at Dumbarton Oaks in 1944 assured the world that one of the objectives of the struggle against Fascism and Nazism was the enthronement of human rights. In accordance with these assurances, the nations that met in San Francisco in 1945 embodied these ideals in the Charter and re-affirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.

International Bill of Rights

THE Economic and Social Council which is charged, under the Charter, with the promotions of human rights, thereupon at its very first session set up a Commission for the "promotion of human rights". On the basis of this Commission's recommendations the Council decided that one of the first things to which the Commission should direct its attention was an international Bill of Rights.

The vision of a universal Bill of Rights was not new. Governments, organizations and individuals who had studied the subject intensely were quick to lay before the Commission a varied assortment of drafts.

The Commission began studying them on January 27, 1947. As the Commission's session went on, it decided to divide the Bill of Rights into three sections—a Declaration, a Convention to be called the Covenant of Human Rights and Measures of Implementation.

The discussions on the articles of the Declaration revealed the differences on human rights that have marked all subsequent debates on the subject in the United Nations organs. Nevertheless, a draft declaration was completed and sent by the Council to the third session of the General Assembly which convened in Paris in September, 1948.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

THE Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the Third Committee of the General Assembly at three o'clock in the morning of December 7, 1948. On December 10, the General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Committee's draft and called on all member states to publicise the text of the Declaration and "cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

The Declaration has been described as an international Magna Carta or as an international charter of human rights and as a historic landmark in man's rough road from primitive existence to the reign of freedom.

When it was adopted, the president of the Assembly, Herbert Evatt of Australia declared: "It is the first occasion on which the organized community of nations has made a declaration of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and it has the authority of the body of opinion of the United Nations as a whole, and millions of men, women and children all over the world will turn for help, guidance and inspiration to this document."

The Declaration consists of thirty articles which proclaim man's inalienable rights in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural fields; the right to life; liberty and security of person; to freedom from arbitrary

arrest; to a fair trial; to privacy, to freedom of movement and residence; to social security; to work; to education; to a nationality; to freedom of worship; to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; to man's right to take part in the government of his own country; to hold public office; to seek and be granted asylum; and to own property.

These rights were proclaimed as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations."

In its preamble, the Declaration set out the necessity of these Rights to form a "foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world; "as a guarantee against "tyranny and oppression" and as an assurance that men and women will have equal opportunities to promote their social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

In its conclusion, the Declaration proclaimed that these rights and freedoms cannot be enjoyed under a reign of terror, nor in a world at war or in turmoil. Under such conditions, human rights are either suspended or disregarded and life itself becomes of little value. Only in a social and international order, that is governed by the rule of law and the principle of mutual respect may human rights be fully observed. Thus according to article 28, everyone has the right to such a social and international order.

Rights Imply Duties

EVERY right implies a duty. While the Declaration is intended to be a proclamation of rights and freedoms, in Article 29 it reminds every person of his duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms "everyone may be subject to such limitations, as are determined by law solely

for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others, and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society." No one may exercise his rights and freedoms "contrary to the purposes and principles of The United Nations."

Finally, Article 30 warns that no State, group or person may claim any right, under the Declaration, to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration.

Human Rights Day

ON December 4th, 1950, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution inviting "all States and interested organisations to adopt December 10th of each year as Human Rights Day, to observe this Day to celebrate the proclamation of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights by The General Assembly on December 10th, 1948 and to exert increasing efforts in the field of human progress." Since then December 10th has been celebrated as Human Rights Day in many parts of the world. Special observances were held in 1958 to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of The Declaration.

In the 14 years since it was adopted, The Declaration has undoubtedly exercised a profound influence throughout the world. The Declaration or its articles are frequently quoted in United Nations resolutions as a standard to be applied. The Constitutions of many countries, including those that have recently gained their independence, reflect its influence; and it has also influenced the national legislation and jurisprudence of a number of countries.

International Conventions

THE Declaration has also inspired a number of international conventions concluded under

the auspices of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. These include the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide (1948); the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951); the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954); the Convention on the Political Rights of women (1952); the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women (1957); the Supplementary Convention on Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery (1956); the Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (1957); the Convention Concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (1958); the Convention Concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (1948); the Convention Concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively (1949); Convention Concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women workers for Work of Equal Value (1951); Convention Against Discrimination in Education (1960); The Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959); and the Convention on the International Right of Correction (1961).

In the Peace Treaty concluded in San Francisco in 1951, Japan declared its intention to strive to realize the objectives of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950, the substantive provisions of which were based on an early version of the United Nations' draft international covenant on human rights, was signed and put into effect as a step for the collective enforcement of certain of the rights stated in the Declaration. In the 1954 special statute relating to the Free Territory of Trieste, the Italian and Yugoslav Governments undertook to act in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the administration of their respective areas.

The human rights programme that has developed and is developing in the United Nations, is, to a large extent, conceived within the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In fact, it may be said that the purpose of the programme as a whole is to promote the observance and implementation of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Declaration.

Covenants on Human Rights

AFTER the completion of the Universal Declaration; the Commission on Human Rights concentrated on the draft international covenants. In 1954 it completed the preliminary texts of a draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and a draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These have been considered by the General Assembly since 1955. The final drafting by the Assembly has not yet been completed.

In the six years since the preliminary drafts of the two draft Covenants have been before the Assembly, its Social, Humanitarian and Cultral Committee (Third Committee) has adopted a preamble and an article on the right of people to self-determination for inclusion in both covenants.

The committee has also completed the substantive articles on economic, social and cultural rights.

These deal with the right to work; the right to just and favourable conditions of work; trade union rights; social security; rights relating to motherhood and childhood; marriage and the family; the right to adequate food, clothing, housing and standards of living; the right to health; the right to education, including a plan for compulsory primary education; and rights relating to science and culture.

The Committee has adopted 13 of the 21 substantive articles of the draft covenant on civil and political rights, covering the right

to life; freedom from inhuman or degrading treatment; freedom from slavery, servitude and forced labour; the right to liberty and security of person; the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty; freedom of movement; the right to a fair trial; non-retroactive application of criminal law; privacy; protection against interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence and against attacks on honour and reputation; the freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

The Right to Self-Determination

THE draft Covenants on Human Rights provide that all peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of their right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. The people may also freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources. Under no circumstances can they be deprived of their means of subsistence. All States shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination and shall respect that right.

This question was discussed by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council. Their proposals were considered by the General Assembly in 1957 and 1958 and by a resolution of December 1958 established a nine-member commission to conduct a full survey of the status of permanent sovereignty of peoples and nations over their natural wealth and resources. The Commission held three sessions in 1959, 1960 and 1961. Their report is before the General Assembly.

At its fifteenth session in 1960, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. This Declaration proclaims the necessity of bringing colonialism in all its forms and manifestations to a speedy and unconditional end. The subjection of peoples to alien subjugation,

domination and exploitation, the General Assembly declared, constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, is contrary to the Charter of The United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and co-operation. Inadequacy of political, economic or social preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence. All armed action or repressive measures directed against dependent peoples shall cease in order to enable them to exercise peacefully and freely, and their national integrity shall be respected. In the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories or other territories which have not yet attained independence, immediate steps shall be taken to transfer all powers to the peoples of those territories without any distinctions as to race, creed or colour in order to enable them to enjoy complete independence and freedom. All States shall observe faithfully the provisions of the Chapter, the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Freedom of Information

THE United Nations has also been working on a number of other international instruments relating to "Freedom of Information" which the General Assembly has declared to be a "fundamental human right and the touchstone of all freedoms to which the United Nations is consecrated." Various proposals have been made to advance this influential right. The General Assembly has, on its agenda for the current session, the Draft Convention on Freedom of Information and The Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information. The Convention on The International Right of Correction came into force this year.

(By courtesy of the U. N. Information Centre, Colombo.)

CONFERENCE OF SIX AFRO-ASIAN NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

(Continued from page 8)

communicated to the Governments of India and the People's Republic of China, lest premature disclosure may prejudice their endeavours.

It was the wish of the Conference that the Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Honourable Sirimavo Bandaranaike, should visit New Delhi and Peking, in order to convey the results of the deliberations.

The Conference of Six Afro-Asian Non-Aligned Countries decided that their efforts in seeking to bring about negotiations between India and the People's Republic of China should not end with the present meetings in Colombo, but should continue until the final settlement of this problem can be negotiated directly between the Governments of India and the People's Republic of China.

Keppetipola Disava — The Patriot who Died for Lanka

PIYADASA SENEVIRATNE

(THE 144th anniversary of the death of Keppetipola Disava—the patriot who died for Lanka—was commemorated in Ceylon on November 26th, 1962. The high-light of these celebrations was a mass meeting followed by a historical pageant at Torrington Square, Colombo, organised jointly by the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Keppetipola Commemoration Society).

Anyone visiting the historical city of Kandy in central Ceylon can see a memorial erected to the memory of a national hero, at the Kandy esplanade, opposite the famous Temple of the Tooth (Dalada Maligawa). Herein is interred the skull of Keppetipola Disava, also called Monerawila Maha Nilame, who died a martyr to the cause of national liberation one hundred and forty-four years ago, on 26th November, 1818 to be exact. He was executed by the British Government at Kandy for his leadership in the Uva Rebellion of 1817-1818 which was a last bid to liberate the motherland from the hand of a foreign yoke. The skull of this patriotic Sinhalese was taken possession of by Henry Marshall and later presented to the Phrenological Society of Edinburgh. After Ceylon achieved her independence a request was made for the return of the skull which was readily granted and it was ceremoniously interred on November 26th 1951.

On March 2nd, 1815, was enacted in the Hall of Audience (Magul Maduwa) of the Kandyan kings, the historical Kandyan Convention by which Sri Vickrama Rajasinghe was deposed and the kingdom entrusted to the King of England. The signatories to the treaty consisted of the Governor Sir Robert Brownrigg on behalf of the King of England on the one hand and the Adigars, Disavas and Nilames of Sinhale on the other hand. Keppetipola Disava was also a signatory to

the Kandyan treaty in his capacity as the Disava of Matale. In 1817 he was appointed Disava to Uva.

Kandyan Treaty

THE Kandyan treaty brought to an end the 2000-year-old sovereignty of Kanda Uda Rata. Before long, the Kandyan Chiefs began to repent of being a party to the treaty and began to feel the loss of their power and prestige. Having lost their age-long independence the Kandyans of all grades began to dislike the alien rulers. Since the conquerors differed from the conquered in race, religion, language, customs, habits and modes of thinking English rule was not palatable for the Sinhalese. Feudal customs which were jealously guarded by the Chiefs were looked with contempt by the English. In the old days, only the king was above them. But now they had to take orders from every petty English civilian in the Government Service and every English soldier in the army of occupation.

The Sangha were even more dissatisfied. The ascendancy of a Christian Government was viewed as a distinct menace to the practice and propagation of Buddhism. The suspicion of proselytism became all the more acute with the establishment of an English Seminary at Kandy to impart a Western education to the kith and kin of the Sinhalese Chiefs.

Although Keppetipola was a signatory to the Convention, he did not favour a change of the existing system of Government. He was of the opinion that if the country was to progress there should be a Sinhalese King and that British supremacy should come to an end. He once declared that Ehelepola

Maha Nilame should be made king. On several occasions he punished some of his subordinate officers for paying undue respects to the Government Agent at Badulla.

The Chiefs who began to hate the new masters most were those of Bintenna and Vellassa. They jealously guarded their customary rights and lived like petty kings. Now, the Moors at Vellassa lived under the suzerainty of a Disava who levied heavy taxes and fines from them. Being discontented they appealed to Governor Brownrigg to appoint one of their men to look after their interests. The Governor acceded to this request while the Disava naturally objected. He was backed by the Sinhalese people of the area who pledged their support to any action directed to restore the status quo. It is this action by the English which brought about the Uva Rebellion of 1817-18.

A Pretender Appears

AFTER the appointment of Keppetipola to the Disavany of Matale, a pretender to the throne called Doraisamy made his appearance at Vellassa. He claimed his descent from the royal line of the now deposed Sri Vickrama Rajasinghe. The general discontent that prevailed among the people helped him to win their sympathy without any difficulty whatsoever. The Government Agent of Badulla received information that Doraisamy was organising a rebellion against the lawfully constituted Government of the King of England. The Governor immediately sent Hadji Muhandiram to Vellassa to suppress the rebellion but he was captured by the rebels in Vellassa. By this time there were thousands of insurgents all over the area who had made a firm determination to fight the rebellion to the bitter end. Governor Brownrigg sent Mr. Wilson to the rescue of Hadji Muhandiram but two arrows from the insurgents pierced his skull and he died on the spot.

The Governor took every possible step to crush the rebellion which was spreading like wild fire throughout the Uva Province. The British burnt houses, destroyed crops and damaged irrigation works in order to force the people into submission. "The houses of the inhabitants were set on fire and burned to the ground and all the cattle, grain etc. belonging to the people were either carried off by the troops or destroyed." Henry Marshall so recorded the acts of the English. Martial law was declared in Uva and Vellassa and soon a reward was out for the arrest of Doraisamy.

The Governor then sent Keppetipola Disava to crush the rebels but on meeting the leader of the rebellion Kohukumbure Rate Rala he realised that he had come on the evil mission of shedding the blood of his own people. He made his decision and joined the rebels. Of course, it was a dishonour for him to fight the Britisher with their own arms which he had brought with him and therefore sending them back to the Governor he launched his campaign with his fellow supporters.

The rebellion spread so rapidly that the Governor Brownrigg offered a reward of 1000 pagodas for the arrest of Keppetipola. Fortunately for the British and additional regiment came from India at this time to strengthen the hands of the British.

The British began to ravage the Kandyan territory in their search for the rebel leaders. On information received that Keppetipola and Madugalle were in a house at Parawahagama near Anuradhapura a raid was made. Keppetipola who was ailing at the time was captured by Captain O'Neil. Just as the Captain entered the premises Keppetipola came forward and shook hands with him introducing himself "I am Keppetipola. I am Keppetipola". With the arrest of Madugalle two days later, the insurrection collapsed. On Nov. 13th 1818, Keppetipola and Madugalle

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A Toy Making Centre

JAMES GOONEWARDENE

TUCKED away in an off-the-beat hamlet, somewhere, half-way between Galle and Colombo is the Maha Induruwa Toy Making Centre. An unpretentious and decaying little building, sheltered by a leafy jak tree and some other unidentifiable tropical trees, houses the centre in which thirty shy teenage girls and two equally shy teenage boys have found employment. Here, these out-of-school teenagers have not only found something to do with their deft, delicate hands, but also a way of earning sums of money ranging from about fifty rupees to about seventy a month.

From this centre and several other similar centres come each month a variety of toys and curious to the Industries Shops in Colombo, and from here they find their way into the homes of local customers or are sold to tourists from abroad; or they even get distributed among various other shops and stores scattered about the country. In this way, the Government not only teaches new skills, stimulating creative talent for making objects of art, but also gives employment to young people in the neighbourhood of the centre at a critical period of their life, when they are about to make the difficult adjustment to adult life.

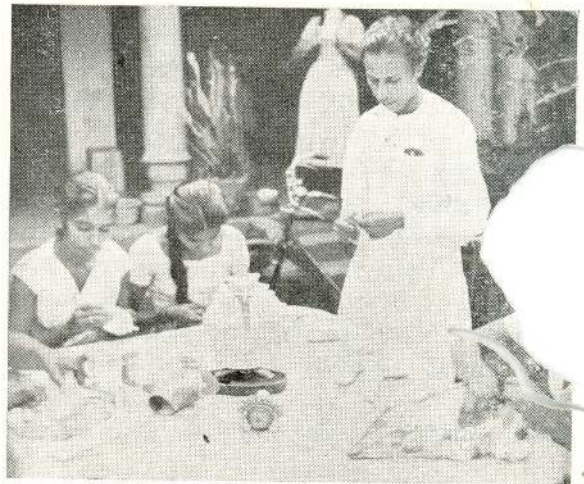
Typical Centre

THE toy making centre is a typical one and was begun about sixteen years ago, without any serious object or plan before it, and put on a proper footing only recently with the introduction of modern techniques and materials, and influenced, no doubt by the Japanese toy experts who were in the island recently training local craftsmen and toy makers. This particular centre at Maha Induruwa, if given the proper stimulus and encouragement, should eventually turn out

fine examples of local art, because not far from it lies the town of Ambalangoda, a traditional centre for craftsmen and artists, and from where come the internationally reputed dance masks.

The students—if they may be so called—since many of them are still at the learning stage, are mostly girls who have had a secondary education, and some of them even have Senior School Certificates. As many as apply are enrolled and no fees are charged. The only limitation, at the moment, to the number of girls who can be enrolled is the one enforced by the lack of accommodation. The instructor and officer-in-charge, without appearing to complain, said he wished he could have a better and larger building so that he need not shut out anyone at all. Yet the problem does not seem to be acute. For most of the girls are of marriageable age, and from time to time someone of them leaves the centre to be married, and so creating a vacancy for someone else who may wish to join!

Instructor giving hints on how the moulds must be used.





Working with toy moulds.

There are two age limits to those who may join. The lower age limit is fourteen and the upper limit, twenty-one, but younger girls are sometimes admitted, only in order to help some needy family in the village to supplement its meagre income. The only other condition for admission to the centre is that they must have finished their schooling. It is the usual practice for the girls to remain at the centre till they are married, and as is usual in villages of Ceylon, the parents get their daughters married while they are still in their teens. So it rarely happens that a girl remains at the centre until she reaches the proper age limit.

variety of toys made at the centre are the moment on account of the number of moulds available. It is at producing the toys for which the moulds takes all the time of the girls. The moulds are supplied by the Department of Cottage Industries, but as greater skill is acquired and the conditions improve some of the more talented ones could perhaps make their own moulds, creating

new toys and experimenting with new techniques. But the only apparent drawback now is that the toys are a little stereotyped; After a time the production of the toys would naturally become mechanical, leaving little or no room for imagination or creative effort. Perhaps as the centres expand and get better organised these shortcomings could be corrected. It seems sufficient now to run these centres without loss.

The material used is inexpensive. The basic raw material is waste paper, and this supplied by the Department of Cottage Industries, free of charge, and all of it comes from the thousands of waste paper baskets from Government offices. Only the transport charge is levied from the centre. The rest of the material consists of wheat flour, paints, varnishes, sandpaper, and a stuff known as whiting powder, and of course, the moulds, which are made of clay.

A stage in the making of dolls—various parts being brought together.



The process of manufacture is simple. The waste paper is soaked in water and this is spread out on the mould and over it paste (obtained from the wheat flour) is applied, and in this fashion seven such layers of waste paper are laid on. There are two moulds making the two halves of the toy. These two halves, prepared in the moulds, in the way just described, are taken out and left to dry. The two halves are then pasted together with more waste paper, and this is sandpapered over, and the powder, known as whiting, is smoothly laid over the toy and when dry it is sandpapered over again. The toy already begins to acquire a smoothness and shine. It is then varnished and painted sprayed over. The final touches are then given to complete the process.

The toys consist of dolls and various animals such as the elephant and duck, and the variety of them fans out into Hill country dancers and Buddha images. Some girls produce more toys than others, depending on each one's skill and deftness. The instructor has a register for each girl in which he keeps a record of the toys she makes, so that her share of the income of the centre is in proportion to her output. A percentage of the money earned by the girls is deducted for raw materials and centre charges, and a

small percentage is also charged as fee for spray painting, which is done by one of the boys at the centre.

The girls have formed themselves into a welfare society having a President and Secretary. The society meets once every two months. The election of office bearers takes place once a year. At their meetings every two months the girls gather to discuss the various problems of the centre and what measures must be adapted to improve it and their own welfare. The people in the hamlet look on the centre as something that belonged to them since their girls find work and employment in it. It has a special place in their lives.

Spray painting at the final stage.



Ceylon's Veterinary Services

VETERINARY Science has been practiced in Ceylon for centuries and particularly flourished during the reign of King Buddhadasa over 1,500 years ago. According to the Mahavamsa, King Buddhadasa appointed physicians for the treatment of animals and built hospitals throughout the country.

The western system of Veterinary Medicine appears to have been introduced into the Island in 1891 with the appointment of a Government Veterinary Surgeon. His principal function, however, was teaching the science to students of the School of Agriculture. In 1895 a separate Veterinary Department was established. This Department gradually expanded but in 1936 it was amalgamated with the Department of Agriculture with a view to ensuring better co-ordination in animal husbandry activities.

Today, there are over 60 Veterinary Surgeons employed by the Department of Agriculture. About 50 of these are in charge of districts where their principal duties are :

- (1) Prevention and control of animal diseases by immunization of livestock, etc.
- (2) Treatment of animals belonging to the public through free Veterinary Dispensaries run by them.
- (3) Free advice to stock owners on the care, feeding and management of animals and poultry.

the improvement of livestock in the area by castration of scrub bulls and through an artificial insemination service, using semen from superior bulls.

These activities are co-ordinated and supervised by the Chief Government

Veterinary Surgeon under the direction of the Deputy Director (Animal Production and Health).

Ceylon is fortunately free of one of the most devastating diseases of cattle present in other parts of South-East Asia, viz; Rinderpest.

This disease which killed thousands of animals annually was eradicated in 1934. However, the disease was re-introduced into the country in 1942 through animals imported from India. This was due to the fact that quarantine regulations had to be relaxed during this period due to war. This outbreak was stamped out in 1946, and Ceylon has been free of rinderpest since then.

The spread of the more important animal diseases is prevented through the operation of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Ordinance. This Ordinance empowers the Chief Veterinary Surgeon to declare areas in which certain scheduled diseases are present as 'infected areas'. Movement of animals both into and out of such proclaimed areas is checked by the erection of road barriers where necessary.

This piece of legislation also regulates the conditions under which animals and birds may be imported into the country ; provides for quarantine ; destruction of infected animals, etc. By this means an animal can be imported into the country only on a permit and thus a close watch is kept to ensure that no exotic animal disease enters Ceylon through imported animals.

It has been realised for some time that one of the serious limiting factors to the effective control of the spread of animal disease is the problem of stray cattle. In order to overcome this problem, new legislation in the form of

the Animals Act was enacted in 1958. This Act contains the salient features of the Cattle Ordinance of 1898, the Cattle Trespass Ordinance of 1896, the Buffaloes Protection Ordinance of 1920 and in addition provides for measures for improved animal breeding. Regulations under this Act have recently been gazetted and when they become operative, the following action will be taken :—

- (1) All cattle and buffaloes over 18 months of age will be branded in a specified manner so as not to damage the hide.
- (2) An ownership voucher will be issued in respect of every animal branded.
- (3) No animal will be permitted to be transported from one Administrative district to another except on a permit.
- (4) Such permit will only be issued if the ownership voucher in respect of that animal is produced, together with a certificate from the Veterinary Surgeon to the effect that the animal is not suffering from any contagious disease.
- (5) Slaughter of buffaloes will only be allowed under certain conditions and on a certificate from a Veterinary Surgeon.
- (6) Animals that trespass may be seized and detained and damages may be recovered for such trespass.
- (7) All male animals over one year of age will be castrated, unless such animals are certified as fit for breeding by the Veterinary Surgeon.

It is anticipated that when these regulations become operative, the problems of cattle trespass, cattle thefts and straying of cattle, etc., will be effectively solved.

When a contagious animal disease breaks out in any area, the Veterinary Surgeon of the area makes necessary investigations and

sends suitable material to the Veterinary Research Laboratory at Peradeniya for diagnosis. When the disease is diagnosed, he proceeds to immunize the animals in the area against the disease in question, with the help of his assistants. These inoculations are done free of charge.

All Veterinary Surgeons in charge of districts maintain one or more dispensaries. On dispensary days, Veterinary Surgeons are available for free advice and treatment of any agricultural animals brought to these dispensaries. Free consultations are given in respect of dogs and other pets, but in the case of these animals, no drugs are issued. In respect of poultry, a post-mortem service is also available at these units. For the purpose of flock treatment of poultry, however, it is not possible to issue free drugs, and issues are confined to small-scale poultry breeders who, in the opinion of the Veterinary Surgeon cannot afford to buy drugs.

With a view to giving a better service to the public, arrangements have been made to construct ten new Veterinary dispensaries this year.

Although there are over 1½ million cattle and about 800,000 buffaloes in Ceylon, about 75 million rupees are spent annually for the importation of milk and milk products. This is due to the fact that the indigenous cow is a very poor milker and produces an average of only two pints of milk per day. One of the most suitable ways of effecting a rise in milk production is by evolving a superior milch animal by cross-breeding with dairy breeds. It is estimated that an indigenous cow is crossed with a superior of a milch breed, the off-spring produce at least 8 pints of milk per day.

Surveys conducted by the Department of Agriculture reveal that there are over one million acres of land suitable for unirrigated pasture in the Dry Zone. In order to exploit this, it is necessary to evolve a superior

milch animal which would suit the Dry Zone environment and this is one of the major objectives of the Department's animal husbandry programme.

One of the principal ways of achieving this objective is by expanding the Artificial Insemination service. At present there are three collecting centres located at Peradeniya, Tinnevely and Welisara, where superior bulls of milch breeds are maintained. Semen from these animals is collected twice a week, and after necessary laboratory examination and processing, is distributed among 26 artificial insemination sub-centres.

Trained Inseminators operate from these sub-centres and insemination of private cattle is undertaken at a nominal charge of one rupee and the cost of transport, if any. If the first insemination is not successful, a re-insemination is done at half the fee. Inseminations are followed by a free pregnancy diagnosis service by the Veterinary Surgeon. If an animal is found to be infertile, necessary treatment is undertaken free of charge, by the Veterinary Surgeon.

For use in the Artificial Insemination programme, nine valuable Jersey bulls were received as a gift from the United States, early this year. These animals are housed at the main Artificial Insemination Centre at Kundasale and semen from them has already been used successfully to inseminate over 500 cows at the Livestock Project, Tamankaduwa, at the Polonnaruwa Farm and also through various sub-centres throughout the country. In order to avoid any wastage of semen from these and other valuable bulls, arrangements have been made to deep-freeze semen, and a part of the equipment necessary for the purpose has already been received. When the rest of the equipment is received, it will be possible to preserve semen for years and also to successfully inseminate cows with semen from bulls long after the bulls are dead!

During the next financial year the number of Artificial Insemination Collecting Centres will be increased from three to seven, and the number of sub-centres increased proportionately, so that the artificial insemination service will be available through most Veterinary Surgeons. At the same time scrub bulls will be castrated under the provisions of the Animals Act, unless such animals are certified as suitable for breeding.

Vaccines required for immunization of animals and poultry against the major diseases prevalent in this country are prepared at the Veterinary Research Laboratory, Peradeniya. During the last year, over 5 million doses of vaccine against Ranikhet disease of poultry were produced at this Laboratory. With the installation of a freeze-drying plant earlier this year, this vaccine is issued as a freeze-dried product, thus improving its keeping qualities. Vaccines are issued only to Veterinary Surgeons, who undertake vaccinations through their assistants free of charge. However, vaccine for fowl-pox is issued free, direct to the public.

The other important functions of the Veterinary Research Laboratory are :

- (1) Examination of specimens from the field for the diagnosis of animal diseases.
- (2) Poultry post-mortem and advisory service.
- (3) Surveys of the incidence of animal diseases of economic importance, with a view to their control and eradication.
- (4) Research on animal diseases and methods of their control.

In order to carry out these functions more effectively, a new Veterinary Research Institute is under construction at Gannoruwa, Peradeniya, and will be ready for occupation next year.

With the progressive development of animal husbandry and the phenomenal expansion of the poultry industry, there is an urgent need for a field diagnostic service. In order to fulfil this need, two Animal Disease Investigation Centres are being constructed this year. These are expected to relieve the Veterinary Research Laboratory of a considerable amount of routine diagnostic work, so that officers of the Research Laboratory would be able to devote all their time to solving the animal disease problems of the country.

All the various activities of the Veterinary Services are directed towards minimising economic losses from livestock and poultry disease and mortality, thereby ensuring success of the Government's animal husbandry development programme, the ultimate object of which is to make Ceylon self-sufficient in milk, meat and eggs.

KEPPETIPOLA DISAVA — THE PATRIOT WHO DIED FOR LANKA

(Continued from page 15)

were tried by Court Martial and sentenced to death. They were to be beheaded on the 26th of November, 1818.

Day of Mourning

IT was a day of national mourning in Tri Sinhale. Almost the entire population of Kanda Uda Rata had assembled at Bogambara grounds to witness one of the most tragic episodes in the history of Sri Lanka. On that memorable morning, Keppetipola and Madugalle were being escorted to Bogambara grounds by a group of European soldiers. One of the prisoners—Madugalle—had become hysterical with fear while the other—Keppetipola—was composed and resolute. They were marching their last journey.

Keppetipola and Madugalle were taken to the Dalada Maligawa at their request. Keppetipola knelt before the Chief Priest and recalled the meritorious deeds he had done in

his life. After a pooja to the Sacred Tooth he took off his upper garment which was his last possession and offered it saying "This will be the more meritorious as it is my only possession". He then made his last wish that in his next life he would be born in the Himalayas and obtain Nirvana.

Keppetipola and Madugalle were then taken to the place of execution on the banks of Bogambara Wewa. At the last moment, Keppetipola took out a copy of the Dhammapada and recited a "gatha" (stanza) needed two blows to sever the head of the patriot who died for the cause of the motherland. In the words of Marshall "Had the insurrection been successful he would have been honoured and characterised as a patriot instead of being stigmatised as a rebel and punished as a traitor".

Fighting Sea Erosion

INDISCRIMINATE mining of coral along the coastal stretch from Ambalangoda to Weligama has been going on for several years. This is not peculiar to this area alone but is fairly widespread along the coasts of Ceylon. The Government is however now taking steps to control this.

The lands from which the coral is mined is privately owned, and mining is done purely for the sake of a small private gain at the expense of the safety of the coast, and houses and lands. Such indiscriminate and uncontrolled mining in the years past, has led to the calamity which was observed this year at Usmudillawa, Akurala, Telwatte, Peraliya, Seenigama, &c.

In the years gone by acres and acres of valuable land and hundreds of houses have been lost to the sea because the natural protection, i.e., the coral and reef formation which existed along the coast has been removed. Such loss of land and houses has become a national problem.

It is so easy to dig out and remove the coral or to blast the reefs in the foreshore and adjoining areas; but it should be realised that it takes over a hundred years for a coral reef or bed of any magnitude to be formed naturally. When this natural protection is removed, the rough seas, during monsoon times, find the loose soil and the guarded open pits an easy prey and start into the land.

Cost of providing artificial protection of the coast from Ambalangoda to Weligama in which areas, these disastrous operations of coral mining are going on, without any consideration for the lands and houses or the public properties such as roads and bridges, will be several million rupees.

Expert's View

ONE of the foremost world experts on Coast Erosion, Mr. R. O. Eaton, Chief Technical Adviser to the Beach Erosion Board, U. S. A., inspected our coasts last year, and very briefly this is what he says with regard to sand and coral mining.

"In addition to the erosion which is occurring through natural causes, works of man are greatly aggravating the problem.

Throughout most of the coast of Ceylon, sand is being excavated from the beach and sold commercially for building and other purposes. The practice of sand mining from the beach contributes greatly to the erosion problem of Ceylon.

In addition to sand, coral is also being mined extensively along the Ceylon Coast, the largest scale operations being in the region south of Ambalangoda. In some localities the mining is done by pit excavation landward of the beach; in others on the beach itself, and a third method consists of loosening the coral on the surface of submerged off-shore reefs, when the loosened chips are transported by wave action to the shore where they may be easily collected. Aside from being unsightly, the backshore pits are not immediately detrimental from an erosion standpoint but when shore recession reaches them, erosion is accelerated. Removal of coral from the beach area has the effect of removing the armour which keeps the beach in position. Lowering the elevation of the off-shore reefs permits larger waves to reach the beach and thereby accelerates erosion. In the interests of shore protection, the practice of coral mining should be discontinued as quickly as practicable or permitted only in isolated regions where shore erosion is of no consequence.

In order to provide access to the sea for fishing craft, it has been the practice in many localities to blast openings through off-shore coral reefs. Also, at localities where sandstone ledges form the immediate near-shore bottom, segments of the ledge are blasted to facilitate beaching of fishing craft. In either case these actions permit larger waves to reach the shore and result in shore recession."

Visible Signs

THERE has been visible signs of heavy erosion over the last 50 years or so at Thotagamuwa, Verallana, Seenigama and Telwatte, where erosion still goes on. Over hundreds of houses, thousands of coconut trees in full bearing and valuable land have been destroyed by the angry seas over the years.

Seenigama Dewale which stands on rock in the middle of the sea was several years ago on land surrounded by forests. According to information gathered this Seenigama Dewale was an integral part of the mainland 50 years ago but now it is 1,200 feet in the sea. According to this information, the average rate of erosion in that area has been about 24 feet per year which is very high indeed.

This high rate of erosion can occur in other places too, unless the large scale operations of coral mining are stopped immediately and no one will suffer more than the local residents of the area who are likely to be deprived of the very houses and gardens in which they live. It is, therefore, imperative that the coral mining operations must stop immediately and the whole-hearted co-operation of the public is vital.

The position is well illustrated if you take a look at the Hikkaduwa Rest House premises. Why are these premises not

affected by sea erosion? It is because coral mining, sand mining or removing anything from the beach or sea is completely banned in that limited area surrounding the Rest House, and as a result there is a wide reef extending from almost near the rocks far out at sea up to the shores of the Rest House premises. This reef is just below water level and the mighty waves lose almost all their energy when they travel over the wide rough and rugged reef. By the time the waves approach the shores, they have spent their force and are unable to do much damage to the coast. Such is the natural protection that the reefs can give to the shore. A similar reef would exist in the other sections of the coast if mining had been stopped several years ago.

There is a vast acreage of low lying paddy fields and marshes bordering the narrow stretch of high land along the coast. If the sea gets an entry into such land, for e.g., Akurala, one of the danger spots, it could go some miles inland and submerge a vast acreage of fertile land. It will thus cause terrible hardship, inconvenience and misery to the people. The main road and the rail track too can get washed away.

As a result of these sand mining operations there is serious erosion at Uswetakeiyawa, Dickowita, Henda, Lanciyawatte, Mt. Lavinia, Ratmalana, Lunawa, Moratuwa, Panadura, Kalutara and Beruwela. At some of these places private buildings and lands are affected and at others public property such as Housing Schemes, rail tracks and roads are affected.

After much agitation, the large removal of sand from the end of St Road, Ratmalana, was stopped a few n. ago as the railway line and the Wedika Housing Scheme were in grave danger. The benefits of this stoppage are already visible as the situation at Wedikande Housing Scheme has improved appreciably. Had it not been stopped, the Housing Scheme would

certainly have been devoured by the sea sooner or later.

Beneficial Results

SIMILAR beneficial results are bound to obtain if sand mining is stopped in the other places too. The sand that is being mined is mainly used for building purposes for which it is considered unsuitable owing to its high salt content. But ignorant house builders are often the victims of unscrupulous contractors who use sea sand for the sake of cheapness and availability. For building purposes river sand should be used and this could be obtained from river beds further up stream.

The danger of sea erosion has therefore assumed a serious proportion and needs assistance from the public to be controlled successfully. The Government in its turn is going all out to erect coast protection works.

Coast protection works came under the P. W. D. in July 1959, and was handled by the Deputy Director (Water Works), until March, 1961, when under a Cabinet conclusion it was made a branch of the newly created Department of Water Supply Drainage and Coast Protection. Since then there has been strong agitation from public as well as private sectors for protection against sea erosion from various parts of the Island.

The worst affected section of the coast is from Negombo to Matara. But the effects of sea erosion have been felt even in places like Talawila, Mannar, Jaffna Peninsula, Delft Island, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa. A propaganda leaflet enlightening the people on the dangers of these operations has been prepared at the request of the Hon. Prime Minister and is being sent to the Government Agents for distribution. A new Bill to prohibit these operations is also contemplated.

As it was not possible for the small organisation of the Coast Protection Branch to have district officers to carry out Coast Protection Works, the construction works in the various

parts of the Island were entrusted to the Executive Engineers of the P. W. D. These engineers being themselves loaded with district works can hardly spare the time and staff for coast protection works, although some of them have given every co-operation and carried out the works effectively.

Protective Works

IN the current year, it is expected to make more headway in the matter of Coast Protection by giving out work on contract and relieving the burden from the P. W. D. engineers as far as possible. Some of the works which are under active consideration for the immediate future are :—

- (1) A system of 40-50 timber groynes between Ambalangoda and Hikkaduwa.
- (2) A pipe work bulkhead at Wellapahala Mutwal.
- (3) A small off-shore breakwater at Mt. Lavinia.
- (4) A groyne at Beach Road Kalutara.
- (5) A timber groyne at Talawila.
- (6) A retaining wall at Point Pedro.
- (7) A retaining wall at Kayts.
- (8) A system of jetties at Kiramaoya out fall, Tangalla.
- (9) Rubble revetments at other affected places.

In June 1961, through the good offices of the U. S. O. M. authorities, the Government obtained the services of Mr. R. O. Eaton, Chief Technical Adviser to the Beach Erosion Board, U. S. A., to advise the Government of Ceylon, on effective measures to arrest the acute sea erosion prevailing at the time. Mr. Eaton was in Ceylon, from mid June to end of August, 1961, inspected the entire coast by land and from the air and submitted his report to the Minister of Local Government on August 31, 1961. He has suggested various

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Raj Gal Kanda—The Mihintale of East Ceylon

S. PATHIRAVITANA

“ARISE in haste, quench thoroughly the forest fire of the hostile army which has broken out with a rain shower of arrows; appoint people whom it is necessary to appoint, to keep the country in order and come again quickly.”

In this flowery speech the chronicler of the Mahawamsa bids his hero, the great Parakrama, command his General Rakkha to suppress the rebellion that had broken out in Dighawapi Manadala, the Gal Oya Valley of today.

Through lightly spoken, as the chronicler tries to make out, the command was of utmost interest to the monarch because without the Tooth Relic and the alms bowl which were in the hands of the rebels his sovereignty was open to question.

But it wasn't an easy campaign to his generals. The war was fought nearly all over the southern half of Ceylon and the rebels repeatedly pushed back the army at places like Eravur (Erahulu), Vhana (Uddhagama), Medagama, Buttala (Guttasala), all in the Uva and the Eastern Provinces.

The army of Parakrama also fought through places like Gintota, Weligama, Kamburupitiya and Devundera while another flank came from Pelmadulla through the Pas Dun and Kukul Korales down to Urubokka in the Morawak Korale. One general died in the campaign and hundreds of prisoners taken were impaled. It was a bitter campaign at the end of which the king subjugated rebellious Ruhuna.

In the Gal Oya Valley itself there is practically no evidence of this fighting or of the long guerilla campaign of the rebels. In the early days of the Gal Oya Development

Board bulldozers went over the ruins of dagobas without in the least being concerned with their cultural interest. Surprising evidence of a once flourishing country now turns up in places like the base workshop of Amparai, the Sugar Farm, the Circuit Bungalow in Ek Gal Aru and around the Kondavattawan tank.

Striking Ruins

BUT the most striking ruins in the Valley are situated just about fifteen miles as the crow flies from Amparai, in the direction of Baki Ella. Here in a rocky mass of country which rises up to 1,260 feet above sea level lies some splendid evidence of the great days of Ruhuna.

The place looks a natural fortress being so inaccessible and the magnificent view it offers of the south-east of Ceylon would make it a kind of military station. In fact secret tunnels that one comes across in the course of the steep climb show that the place had been used for such a purpose.

The beautiful skyline seen half way through the climb is mainly of the south and south-east. Invasions or rebellions by the Ruhuna princes would have been plainly visible. This might in fact be the spot, as Dr. Paranavitana says, where it was felt by the Anuradhapura ruler that a military station should be established, “ . . . through fear that the princess of Jöhana would take the first opportunity that offered itself to extend their authority over the district which once was an integral part of their principality”.

Around the time Charlemagne was putting some semblance of order into Europe a king of Anuradhapura fixed the Gal Oya as the

boundary between Ruhuna and the Raja Rata, a frontier unacceptable of course to the Ruhuna princes. For there are signs that Ruhuna was there even before Anuradhapura.

There are primitive drawings in some of the rock caves which resemble those discovered at Tantirimalai, a place according to both Hocart and John Still as of undoubtedly prehistoric interest.

And Dighawapi itself, situated to the south of Rassa Hella, which is another name for Raj Gal Kanda, happens to be a spot of pre-Buddhistic veneration; for this was one of the places along with Samanala Kanda, Mahiyanagana and Kelaniya, the places of both Vishnu and Yama worship, that the Buddha on his first visit even before Buddhism had come to this country, chose to honour.

Beauty and Charm

BUT it is Buddhism finally that has restored to the place some of its beauty and charm. The sons of Saddha Tissa, Dutugemunu's brother, dedicated some of the rock caves to Buddhist monks the inscriptions of which in early Brahmi are still visible today.

The place seems to have captivated the imagination of other princes who followed for there are inscriptions which tell of how land around the country should be used for the benefit of the monks at the Arittara monastery—this apparently being the name of the monastery founded on Raj Gal Kanda.

Once you reach the top you see the cells of meditation. In one the home of a kind of Buddhist eremite, the wall built round the cave is still there. Just outside it can be seen his urinal. There are numerous caves of this type in this part of Raj Gal Kanda the coolest and most secluded part of the Arittara monastery.

But it is lower down when one leaves the rarefied air of the mystics and descend to the northern side of the rock that the charm and simple beauty of Buddhist sites begin. Now of course the jungle has grown over the delicately carved moonstone and the fallen pillar. But the lay-out despite the forest trees still reveals that here must have been a spot of calm retreat.

The small *wewa* attached to the monastery has now run dry. But finely carved steps which lead in and out of it show that it must have been for ritual purposes. Below the broad bund of the *wewa* runs a paved road like the paved road at Mihintale. It lies between two beautifully constructed *mandapas* of which the guard-stone entrances and the supporting pillars are all that remain.

The paved road also runs past two dagobas of the earliest type found in Ceylon. These dagobas are very small, little bigger than burial mounds and of the type that enshrine the relics of *pasaya* buddhas, those beings who are forerunners of the Buddhas. I was told that there were about a dozen such dagobas scattered about the monastery.

Close by there is a natural spring whose cool and refreshing waters had been tapped to feed two giant cisterns hollowed out of stone. The water had filled the cisterns through the mouth of a delicately carved *makara* also found on the site. Only one of the cisterns, however, is still sound but this is sufficient to make you marvel at the wonderful skill of the ancient gal waduwas.

For Contemplations

ALL this may have been contemplated serenely by whoever the astatic was who occupied one particular cave commonly known as the arahat gala. For, from this cave, which is a little like the one Mahinda is reported to have occupied at Mihintale, one could have gazed serenely into the placid waters below.

There is evidence too of how the workmen in ancient days whiled away their time at games of *nerenchi*. The board carved in stone still remains. Or could this be some mystical game, a kind of aid to meditation in which the pieces in the game symbolise man's progress in the sea of samsara and his efforts to reach the shore? Salvation, at least in the game of *nerenchi* is known as *goda yanawa* meaning going ashore.

But the ruin most likely to excite the greatest popular interest is a giant Aukana like Buddha statue, nineteen feet long, but now lying on its side because the sculptor for some unknown reason never finished making it. Curiously enough even at Tantirimalai there is a statue of the Buddha incomplete and abandoned.

The most curious part of it all is how this statue comes to be here, for strangely enough it does not fit in with the style of the other ruins. The Buddha statue must be about a thousand years old but the other ruins are even more ancient. Why did the sculptor leave his masterpiece in such precipitate hurry?

Could it have been war, pestilence or some natural disaster? Did nobody return to the place after Magha, the cruel South Indian ruler who occupied the throne of Ceylon in the twelfth century, devastated the country? Has Raj Gal Kanda remained in this state of untouched ruin in the last thousand years, its serenity only occasionally disturbed by treasure hunters? It is an interesting mystery waiting to be solved?

FIGHTING SEA EROSION

(Continued from page 25)

measures that could be taken to arrest sea erosion and particularly stressed that artificial nourishment of the beaches should be effected by pumping-in sand from river mouths and lagoon outlets to vantage points on the beach wherever possible as is done in America. Such an operation will provide the necessary beach material our shores sorely need and will nourish many miles of coast and give a stable beach for a few years. This method of pumping sand will have to be carried out at intervals of a few years.

This method has the added advantage of deepening the river outlets and making it possible to develop such outlets to serve as small fishery harbours for mechanised fishing

craft, and also maintain a constant flow into the sea without sand bar formation, once the outlets are stabilised with jetties on either side.

The Government has approved Mr. Eaton's recommendations, and in order to carry out the artificial nourishment a Portable Cutter Suction Dredger with accessories will be required. This will cost the Government approximately Rs. 2½ millions, including training of two officers abroad. Action is being taken to obtain foreign aid for this purpose. It is hoped that by implementing Mr. Eaton's recommendations, it would be possible to give some measure of protection from sea erosion.

Foreign Affairs

THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, declared open on 21st November, the seventh Commonwealth Medical Conference, held at the Galle Face Hotel in Colombo. After welcoming the delegates from sister Commonwealth countries, the Prime Minister said that Ceylon faced today an acute shortage of trained medical men and she was certain that that was the experience of most of the newly developing countries. She said that their needs were urgent and the health of large areas in the world would depend on the quick satisfaction of those needs. What hindered them was the lack of capital and very often adequate training facilities.

"Our capital resources," she continued, "are scarcer and under these circumstances assigning priorities is a difficult and unenviable task. Therefore we must necessarily seek the assistance of our sister countries who are relatively in a more fortunate position today.

"We have not been disappointed in the past and I am certain that we shall not be disappointed in the future, and, looking at your Agenda in this light I see that items such as "Medical Education in Commonwealth countries", "Post-graduate education for doctors from countries where facilities are not available", "Post-graduate Education within the Commonwealth" and the formation of a Commonwealth Medical Association, which I note is the main item on your agenda, are of particular relevance in the situation we face today.

"I also note that the delegates from Ceylon will sponsor a discussion on the Western and Indigenous system of Medicine in Ceylon. It is not for me to anticipate what he will say. But I would like to make a passing reference to the efforts we are now making to revitalize the ancient system of Medicine known

as Ayurveda. This was a system of medicine which together with other indigenous systems such as Siddha and Unani and with many local variations looked after the health of an entire continent long before the advent of Western Medical techniques. Much of this ancient knowledge has now been lost and our attempt today is to re-discover, collect, collate and codify and to introduce modern scientific techniques into the practice of Ayurveda so that we could benefit from both the scientific excellence of the West and the ageless experience of the East."

Agreement with USSR

AN Agreement was signed on 14th November between Ceylon and U. S. S. R. for the establishment of a regular shipping service between the two countries on the basis of equal tonnage participation by Ceylon and Soviet vessels. The Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne and the Soviet Ambassador in Ceylon, Mr. N. Tarakanov, were present at the signing of the agreement.

The following joint communique was issued soon afterwards:—

"On the occasion of the signing of the Agreement on 22nd February, 1962, between Ceylon and the U. S. S. R. for the exchange of goods, Letters were also exchanged between the two Delegations agreeing in principle to the establishment of a Shipping Service between the two countries. Pursuant to this Exchange of Letters, Delegations of the two countries have met and have concluded an agreement today for the establishment of a regular Shipping Service between Ceylon ports and the Soviet ports of Odessa and Novorossiysk on the basis of equal tonnage participation by Ceylon and Soviet

vessels. Provision also exists for vessels of the Service to call by Agreement at other ports of either country or ports of third countries. Each party shall operate their respective vessels and be responsible for the financial results of such operations.

“Ceylon vessels in Soviet ports and Soviet vessels in Ceylon ports shall enjoy most favourable conditions and be accorded most-favoured-nation treatment in keeping with the laws, regulations and port custom applicable to ports in both countries. All payments arising out of the operation of the Service including payments for freight shall be made in accordance with the terms of the Trade and Payments Agreement in force between the two countries.

“The present Agreement shall come into force from the date of its signature and shall continue to be in force until either party declares its intention to terminate the Agreement by giving at least three months’ notice in writing to the other party.

“The discussions were conducted in a spirit of cordiality and mutual co-operation.

“The Agreement was signed on behalf of Ceylon by Mr. K. Alvapillai, Leader of the Ceylon Delegation and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping and on behalf of the U. S. S. R. by Mr. V. Jarkov, Leader of the Soviet Delegation, Head of the General Shipping Department and Member of the Board at the Ministry of Marine of the U. S. S. R.”

Instant Tea presented to Premier

THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and members of the Cabinet were presented on 28th November, with samples of “instant tea” produced at the first “instant tea” factory which has been established at Agrapatana. The presentation was done by Mr. Carl Ellerbrock, Head of the German firm, Messrs. Haelsseh and Ryon of

Hamburg with whom the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, signed an agreement earlier this year for the manufacture and sale of instant tea.

The “instant tea” produced at this factory has been tested by leading tea tasters both in Ceylon and abroad and the product has been very favourably commented upon. The sale of “instant tea” which is to be marketed under the trade name “Ceytea” will commence early next year.

“Ceytea”, is the first “instant tea” to be manufactured directly from green tea leaf. Other types of “instant tea” produced before have been manufactured in Western countries from conventional black tea.

It is proposed to start work on two more “instant tea” factories in Ceylon during 1963.

U. A. R. Minister visits Ceylon

THE Minister of Supply of the United Arab Republic, Dr. Konrad Ramzy Stino, accompanied by Madame Stino, arrived in the Island on 15th November, on a five-day visit.

Dr. Stino was also accompanied by the following:—

- Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Fahmy, Chairman, Egyptian Co-operative Organisation;
- Mr. Ibrahim Darwish, Director of the Office of the Minister of Supply;
- Mr. Hussain Amin Abdullah, Secretary;
- Mr. M. Wehdan, Director of the Tea and Distribution Centre; and
- Mr. Omar Bagneed, Director-General, Interior Trading Company.

During his stay in the Island, Dr. Stino called on the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and had talks with the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne.

Before he left the Island he signed a Trade Agreement with the Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping.

Trade Agreement with U. A. R.

THE following communique was issued in this connection by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, on November 21.

"A delegation of the United Arab Republic led by the Hon. Dr. Kamal Ramzy Stino, Minister of Supply, met a Ceylon delegation led by the Hon. T. B. Ilangaratne, Minister of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, and carried out talks relating to the trade between the two countries.

Measures for expanding trade were discussed, and among them the question of Ceylon importing rice from the U. A. R. and the U. A. R. substantially increasing the imports of Ceylon tea. The delegation of the U. A. R. indicated its readiness to supply about 45,000 tons of rice of acceptable quality in the coming year. The proceeds of sale of this quantity of rice are to be utilized by the U. A. R. for the purchase of Ceylon tea.

"It was also agreed that the measures taken on either side would also have in view the development of trade in new commodities produced in both countries.

"The delegations expressed their mutual desire to aim at a considerably larger turnover of trade between the two countries than has been possible in recent years.

"The talks were conducted in a spirit of cordiality and friendliness, and the two Ministers signed an agreed Minute embodying the conclusions reached".

Envoy for Israel presents Credentials

HIS Excellency Mr. Aliashiv Ben Horin, who has been appointed by the Governor of Israel as their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister

Plenipotentiary to Ceylon, in succession to Dr. Daniel Lewin, presented his letter of Credence to His Excellency the Governor-General at the Queen's House on 15th November.

His Excellency Mr. Ben-Horin who is concurrently accredited to Ceylon and Burma will reside in Rangoon.

Mexico's Ambassador to Ceylon

THE Government of Mexico has, with the concurrence of the Government of Ceylon, decided to appoint His Excellency Mr. Octavio Paz, Ambassador of Mexico in India, concurrently as first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mexico to Ceylon with residence in New Delhi.

Ceylon recognizes Arab Republic of Yemen

THE Government of Ceylon has extended its recognition to the Arab Republic of Yemen, with effect from November 27, 1962. In this connection the Prime Minister has sent a telegraphic message of felicitations to His Excellency Abdullah Asalah, the President of the Arab Republic of Yemen.

C-Plan Aid

THE total aid provided to the region by donor countries under the Colombo Plan, since its inception, has amounted to almost \$12,000. This was revealed at the 14th C-Plan Consultative Committee Meeting, which concluded in Melbourne on November 16.

The Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Bhutan were admitted to the Colombo Plan at this meeting.

All member countries were represented at the meeting. There were also observers from the Colombo Plan Bureau, the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations

Special Fund and the United Nations Technical Assistance Board.

The Consultative Committee reviewed economic developments in the region during the past year and the progress of the Colombo Plan and an assessment was made of some of the tasks ahead for the countries of the region.

The draft annual report was approved by the Ministers. The Report revealed that one of the most encouraging features of the past year was the continued increase in resources, devoted to development, particularly in the fields of health and education.

The Consultative Committee considered the report of the Sub-Committee on Technical Co-operation, with regard to the survey on technical assistance needs and was of the view that as a long term objective it was desirable to have a comprehensive picture of the technical assistance needs of the region as a whole.

Ceylon was represented at the Meeting by His Excellency Mr. W. D. Gunaratna, High Commissioner for Ceylon in Australia, Mr. A. L. Perera, Controller, Economic Aid Division, General Treasury, Mr. E. L. P. Jayatilleke, Senior Research Officer, Department of National Planning, Mr. H. Pandita Gunawardene, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and Mr. A. Nesaratnam, Second Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for Ceylon, Canberra.

Death of Eminent Jurist

THE death occurred in London recently of Mr. L. M. D. de Silva, Member of the Judicial

Committee of the Privy Council, and a former Puisne Justice of Ceylon. He was 69 years old.

Mr. De Silva received his early education at Royal College, Colombo, and Trinity College, Kandy, and proceeded to Cambridge where he obtained his Mathematical Tripos in 1914. He was called to the bar and practised in Ceylon, from 1916 to 1925.

In 1925 he joined the Judicial Service of the Island as assistant to the Attorney-General and became Deputy Solicitor-General in 1927. He was appointed Solicitor-General in 1931, and also acted for the Attorney-General from 1932-33. He acted as Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court from 1931-34.

Mr. De Silva retired from the Judicial Service in 1934 and settled down in England where in 1935, he began practising before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In 1938 he took silk at the English bar.

He returned to Ceylon in 1940 and was appointed to the one-man Commission to inquire into allegations of bribery against members of the State Council. He next served as Chairman of the first Delimitation Commission appointed in 1946. He also served as Chairman of the Commission on Law relating to Mortgages and the Company Law Commission.

He was for some time Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon, Limited. In 1953 he took up duties as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

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