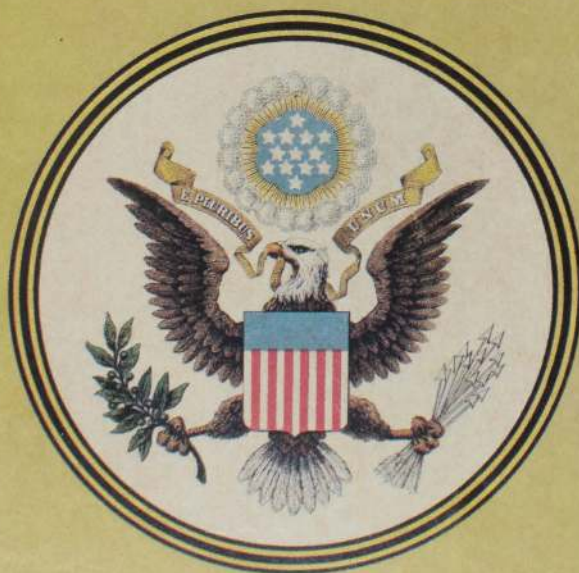




Years of Friendship



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PB

Front cover

*The new seal of Sri Lanka
and the Great Seal of the
United States symbolize
years of friendship.*

Inside back cover

*Aerial view of new
Inter-Continental hotel
includes the National State
Assembly Building and the
Galle Face Green.*

2007

Years of Friendship

A chronicle of relations
between Sri Lanka and the
United States of America
commemorating a quarter
century of diplomatic
association and cooperation.

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20 JUL 1973



A message from
THE PRIME MINISTER OF SRI LANKA

I AM VERY PLEASED to send a message of congratulations on the publication of the booklet commemorating a quarter century of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the United States of America. Our two countries have many things in common, including a devotion to the parliamentary system of government and free elections. We for our part have been perhaps unique, for, practically in the whole Asian region we have been the one country which has changed governments several times by peaceful and orderly democratic processes. We have valued greatly the contributions made over the years not only by the Government of the United States, but also the people of the United States through various agencies, towards our general economic development and the raising of our standards of living. I am very happy to state that we still receive this goodwill and understanding and I have no doubt that this will be so in the future too. I am confident that the cordial and friendly relations that we have with the United States of America will be further strengthened in the years to come.

SIRIMA R.D. BANDARANAIKE
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

4 July 1973



Ceylonese Commemorative Stamp issued in 1967 to honor 60th anniversary of the death of Colonel Olcott. Buddhist flag on stamp, designed by Olcott, is accepted by 29 Buddhist countries.



Commemorative Stamp in honor of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy issued by the Sri Lanka government on October 29, 1971.

Sri Lanka's President, William Gopallawa, (then Governor General of Ceylon) speaking at the 1967 unveiling of Colonel Olcott's statue, opposite the Fort Railway Station in Colombo. President Gopallawa was Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States, 1961-1962.

Years of Friendship

THE YEAR 1973 MARKS the 25th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the United States. The people of these two countries, however, share a much longer history of friendly relationships extending over more than a century and a half.

The story of Sri Lanka-U.S. friendship began in 1816 with the first visit of Americans to the Resplendent Land. The United States and Sri Lanka are halfway around the globe from each other and separated as well by cultural and historical differences. Yet many bridges of understanding have been built between the Ceylonese and American people by individual citizens of these two countries who have come to appreciate the enrichment that shared human experience can provide.

The official ties between Sri Lanka and the United States began in 1850 when John Black, an American merchant resident in Ceylon, was named American Commercial Agent in Galle. A half century later the American Commercial Agency moved to Colombo and became a Consulate. In 1948, shortly after Sri Lanka obtained its independence, the American Embassy was established in Colombo.

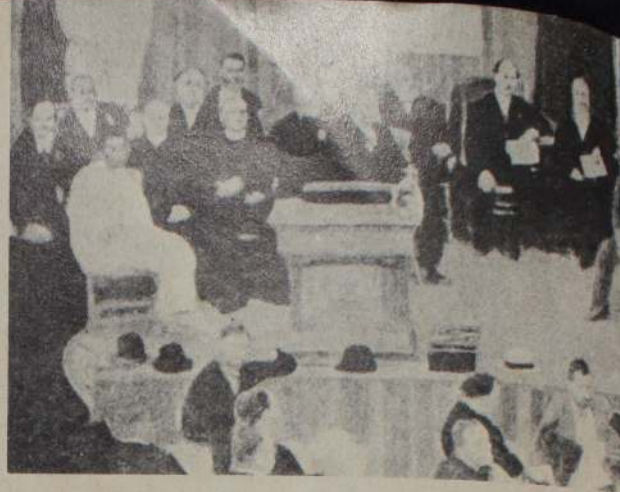
Over the years scores of Americans in commercial, religious and official capacities have come to Sri Lanka. But one remarkable man, Colonel Henry Steel Olcott, stands out as a singular American whose experience in Sri Lanka and friendship for the Ceylonese people

are etched in Ceylonese history and Buddhist affairs in a manner which evokes wonder and admiration six decades after his death. Coming to Ceylon in 1880, Colonel Olcott embraced Buddhism and contributed dramatically to the renaissance of the religion throughout the island.

Working to restore Buddhism to its former glory among the Ceylonese, he drafted and published, in consultation with the Buddhist clergy, the first Buddhist catechism. To provide Buddhism with a unifying symbol, he designed a Buddhist flag to incorporate the six colors of the aura, which, according to tradition, surrounds any place where the Buddha walked. He campaigned to have Wesak, the day which commemorates the Birth, Enlightenment and Death of Lord Buddha, recognized as a public holiday. He was instrumental in starting Buddhist schools such as Ananda College and preaching salas throughout the island and worked successfully to achieve official recognition for Buddhist education. And throughout his life Olcott travelled extensively to bring Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism closer together.

When Henry Steel Olcott died, his sandalwood pyre was covered with the American flag and also with the Buddhist flag he designed—which even today is flown during Ceylonese Buddhist festivals, in memory of the Lord Buddha and his devoted American disciple. A statue of Olcott stands before Colombo's railway station, in the street named after him, and another statue of Olcott was dedicated in Galle.

Mutual discovery:
The beginning of a
rewarding friendship



AS COLONEL OLCOTT came to Sri Lanka from the United States to become a giant among men in Buddhist circles, yet another remarkable man, Doctor Ananda Coomaraswamy, went from Sri Lanka to the United States to become one of the world's leading Oriental scholars and left a rich intellectual legacy to the world. Named Curator of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in 1917, Dr. Coomaraswamy was not content merely to interpret his native Ceylon and Asia for the West, but also used his scholarly gifts to create closer understanding between the two cultures. He was the author of over 500 works, and Dr. Coomaraswamy's wife said of him: "The extraordinary production in art history, esthetic theory, social criticism, comparative religion, symbolism and metaphysics of this man is astounding. He had intellectual powers with which few men of his generation could compare."

Few have contributed more to the cause of U.S.-Ceylonese friendship and to the uniting of East and West than Henry S. Olcott, the American colonel who became a Buddhist leader in Ceylon, and Ananda Coomaraswamy, the Ceylonese geologist who became a world renowned philosopher in America. Yet, many others have made their contributions. For example, the religious devotion of Colonel Olcott and his energetic dedication to a Buddhist renaissance served as the inspiration for the Anagarika Dharmapala who became one of Ceylon's greatest national reformers and a peerless missionary for Buddhism throughout the world.

In the course of his travels the Anagarika met another American, Mrs. Mary Foster, and gave her spiritual advice that was of great meaning to her troubled life. In appreciation she became one of the most munificent supporters of the Anagarika's many causes. Through his tireless efforts and her unparalleled generosity, the two friends established temples, monasteries, schools, hospitals, publications, shrines and numerous other institutions, many of which still function today.

A common thread which has run through all Ceylonese-American relations has been that of a common devotion to education and this was true in the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka as well. Between 1816 and 1848, Americans established 105 Tamil schools and 16 English schools in north Ceylon. In 1847, Dr. Samuel Fiske Green arrived in Jaffna to begin a 30-year effort at medical training which resulted eventually in the publication of over 4,000 pages of Tamil language medical text material. In 1862, the Reverend Miron Winslow, building on the efforts of former American missionary scholars, brought out his masterful 967-page Standard Comprehensive Tamil and English dictionary. And in one of these unique turns of circumstance which have characterized the close relationship between America and Sri Lanka, Mrs. Harriet Winslow, the great-great-grandmother of the late Secretary of State of the United States, John Foster Dulles, founded Uduvil Girls' school at Tellippallai, the first girls' boarding school in Asia.



Anagarika Dharmapala (in white on left) at the Parliament of Religions.



Mary Elizabeth Foster, benefactress and "Foster Mother" of Anagarika Dharmapala.

Anagarika Dharmapala as he delivered his address, "The World's Debt to the Buddha," at the 1893 Parliament of Religions held in Chicago.



A distinguished visitor enjoys a friendly reception

IN MORE RECENT times, contacts between individual Americans and Ceylonese have been complemented on an official level. The United States was one of the first countries to recognize the new nation of Ceylon and diplomatic relations were established April 26, 1948.

In 1953, Richard M. Nixon, then Vice President of the United States, came to Colombo inaugurating a series of high-level visits between the leaders of Ceylon and America. These leadership exchanges included, most recently, Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's meeting with President Nixon in Washington during October of 1971. Her visit followed in the path of her late husband, Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, who visited President Eisenhower in 1957, and the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake, who visited President Johnson in 1966.

The frequent exchange of official visits between Sri Lanka and the United States put a personal stamp on relations between the two countries. This has, in turn, led to many cooperative Sri Lanka-American programs, both official and private, such as the visit of the hospital ship s.s. HOPE, the restoration of the Sigiriya frescoes, several exchange-of-persons programs, AID's PL-480 (Food for Peace) program and CARE (Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere).

Prime Minister Bandaranaike is shown lighting a candle at the Shrine of Buddha before a meeting of the Vihara Society in Washington, D.C. The Prime Minister also talked with Secretary of State William Rogers; addressed the U.N. General Assembly; toured Mount Vernon, home of George Washington, first U.S. President; and visited an American dairy farm. She also met with President Nixon at the White House, below right.



POLITICALLY, WE ENJOY a parliamentary system and a democratic way of life which we are determined to preserve. We can point with legitimate pride to the fact that, since we regained our independence in 1948, we have had five democratically elected Governments. It is through reliance on constitutional means alone that we are achieving the most decisive political, social and economic changes in our country.

SIRIMA R.D. BANDARANAIKE

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Speech to United Nations General Assembly

12 October, 1971



Two decades of personal diplomacy

Richard Nixon, then U.S. Vice President visited Sri Lanka on November 27, 1953 while on a goodwill tour of Asian countries. He is shown greeting crowds at Ratmalana Airport.



Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike is greeted by President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House in 1957. The Prime Minister presented Mr. Eisenhower with a jewel-encrusted map of Sri Lanka.





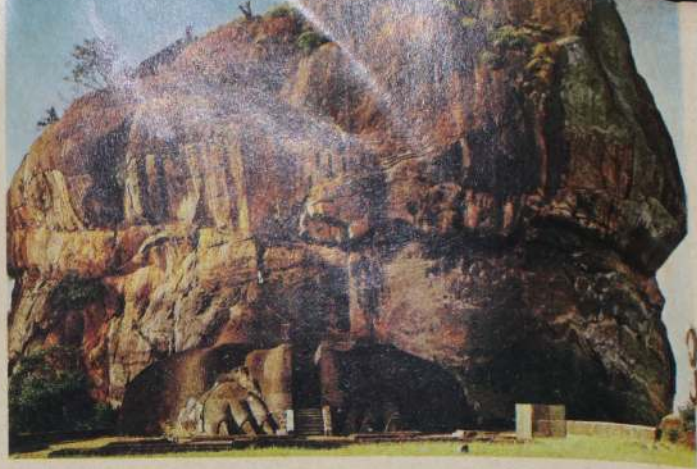
Visiting members of the Ceylon Parliamentary delegation met with President John F. Kennedy at the White House in 1961. Chatting with the President, seated: Mr. C.P. de Silva Minister of Agriculture and Leader of the House of Representatives. Standing (left to right): Dr. N.M. Perera, M.P.; Mr. R.S.S. Gunawardene, Ambassador from Ceylon to the United States; Mr. W.W. Rostow (behind Mr. Gunawardena), Deputy Special Assistant to the President; Sir Razik Fareed, M.P.; Mr. James C. Baird, Jr., Director, USAID in Ceylon; Mr. Ralph Deraniyagala, Clerk to the House of Representatives; and Mr. Jinadasa Weerasekera, M.P.



Former Prime Minister, the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake, talking with President Lyndon Johnson, White House, 1966.

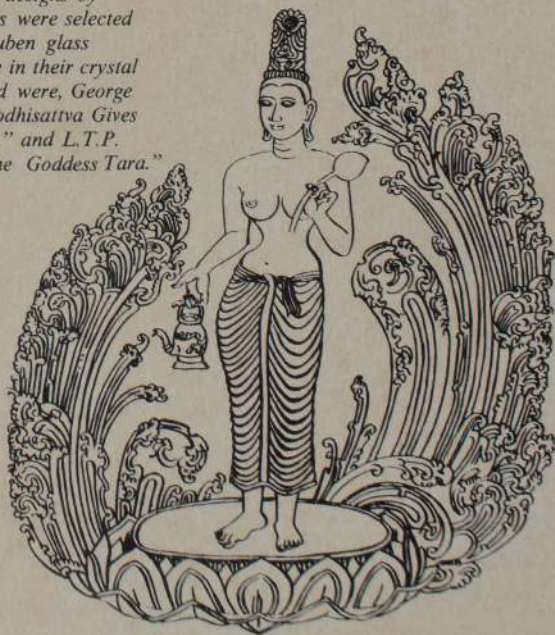
*Sigiriya Rock with lion's paw
at the center.*

*Soon after vandals damaged
the historical Sigiriya frescoes
in 1967, a Smithsonian
Institution grant financed
their restoration.*





Ceylonese artists in Crystal.
*Two traditional designs by
 Ceylonese artists were selected
 in 1956 by Steuben glass
 company for use in their crystal
 designs. Selected were, George
 Keyt's, "The Bodhisattva Gives
 Away His Wife," and L.T.P.
 Manjusri's, "The Goddess Tara."*



From education to engineering—
from traditional art to space:
An expanding range of interests

IN 1968, AT THE invitation of the Ministry of Health, the American hospital ship S.S. HOPE arrived in Colombo for a 10-month stay in Ceylonese waters. During that period the staff of American medical personnel worked side by side with Ceylonese doctors, nurses, laboratory technologists, dentists and other medical specialists in an extensive program of treatment and training. Thousands of Ceylonese received expert medical treatment and several hundred Ceylonese medical personnel worked closely with their American counterparts.

When the historic Sigiriya frescoes were damaged by vandals in 1967, the American Embassy in Colombo initiated plans for a restoration attempt which, with the aid of the Italian government and the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property, resulted in the successful restoration of this Ceylonese cultural treasure. The cost of the restoration project was borne by the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C.

Other private exchanges have included the work of such American foundations as Rockefeller and Ford in Sri Lanka, student exchange between the two countries under the American Field Service and Experiment in International Living programs and the many Montessori and other Ceylonese teachers who have taken up short-term teaching assignments in the U.S.

Cultural and educational relations between the United States and Sri Lanka, as one would expect from nations which produced a Colonel Olcott and a Doctor Coomaraswamy, have been energetic and mutually rewarding. Under the

Educational Exchange Agreement of 1964 and previous agreements, including the Eisenhower Fellowship program, 575 Ceylonese—professors, farmers, businessmen, politicians, civil servants, professional men and women and graduate students—have visited the United States; and 190 Americans have come to Sri Lanka. An alumnus of this program, Dr. Cyrill Ponnampemuma, earned worldwide recognition as the leader of the American scientific team doing research on the nature of moon soil.

Sri Lanka welcomed a visit by astronauts Conrad, Bean and Gordon of Apollo-12 in 1970, the Lunar rock exhibit in 1969 and the famous Friendship-7 capsule in 1962.

The performing and fine arts of Sri Lanka and America have also enjoyed wide acclaim in each other's countries. Headed by the magnificent Nittawala Gunaya, the famous Ceylon National Dance Company toured the United States in 1959 with resounding success. Commenting on their performances, the *New York Times* said: "...the delightful, spirited and stunning program made one wish that the Ceylon National Dancers would be with us longer."

The exceptional genius of Sri Lanka's Senaka Senanayake has also met with critical acclaim in the United States. The prestigious National Geographic Society incorporated a series of Senaka's paintings on Buddhist themes into its 1970 exhibit, "Ceylon's Cultural Heritage."

Yet another fine example of Sri Lanka's fine arts, Vipula Dharmawardena's "Batik Art" Exhibit, met with an enthusiastic reception from Asian art lovers during its 1971 Washington, D.C. and New York displays.



Senaka Senanayake's paintings were exhibited in Washington on the 22nd anniversary of Ceylon's Independence (1970). The exhibition was sponsored by the National Geographic Society of the United States of America in collaboration with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs and its embassy in the U.S.



Sri Lanka's batik artist, Vipula Dharmawardena, is shown with one of his designs at the batik exhibit of his work in Washington, 1971.

Jazz, science, sports, dance:
A hospitable climate for all

EQUALLY WARM and appreciative receptions have been given to American artistic groups during their visits in Sri Lanka. Performing in 1955, the American "Symphony of the Air" orchestra captivated local audiences. Their unusually fine performance before 5,000 school-children prompted the *Ceylon Daily News* to say "The sensational success of the concert for children given by the Symphony of the Air orchestra proves—if the matter ever needed proof—that music can be made to our children a real and live delight."

Ceylonese dance lovers have been treated to visits of the Martha Graham and Paul Taylor dance troupes. Vajira and Chitrasena, well-known Ceylonese dance masters, made the Graham and Taylor visits warm acts of intercultural relations by generously giving their time and hospitality throughout the tours.

On the lighter side, jazz and sports play a major role in the Sri Lanka-American exchange. The visits of Duke Ellington, the Indiana University Jazz Band, the Kansas City Brass Ensemble, Rafer Johnson, Bob Mathias, Althea Gibson, and the "Vaulting Vicar," the Reverend Bob Richards, to name but a few, have brought some of America's outstanding performers before Ceylonese audiences.

Founded in 1954, the Sri Lanka-American Society carries out a wide range of educational, cultural, charitable and social activities aimed at promoting goodwill and understanding between the people of the two countries. The membership consists of Ceylonese and Americans resident in Sri Lanka who are interested in fostering a mutual exchange of ideas and in projecting the cultural and social images of each country to the other.

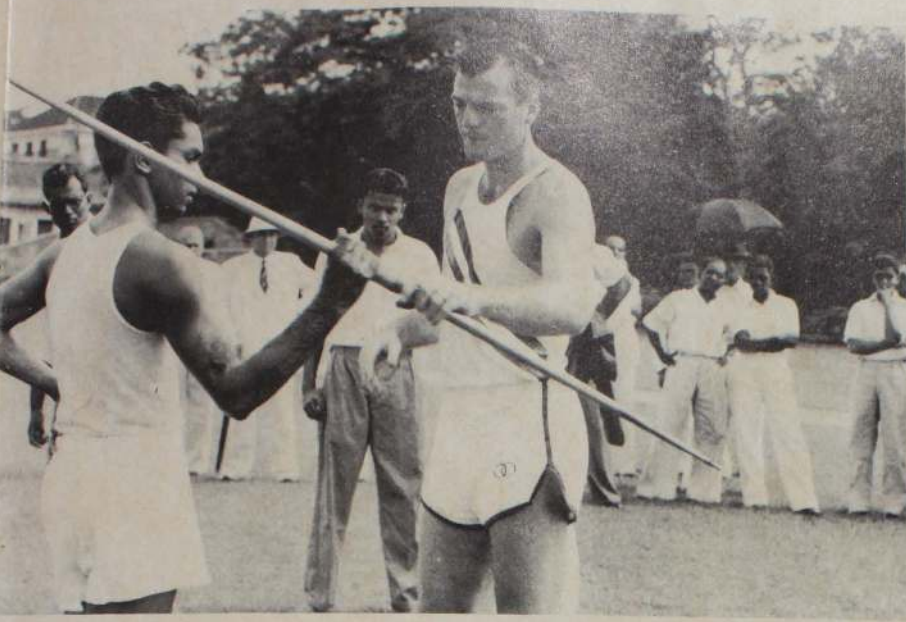
Demonstrating the technique which earned him two Olympic Decathlon Championships, Bob Mathias held several sports clinics in Colombo in 1955 and inspired Ceylonese athletes.

Dr. Cyril Ponnampereuma, an alumnus of the Fulbright Exchange program, working at the Ames Research Center, a facility of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Kalaguru Nittawala Guneya and his vigorous dancers perform on a floating stage at the 1959 Chicago International Trade Fair.



*America's "King of Jazz,"
Duke Ellington, in Colombo.*







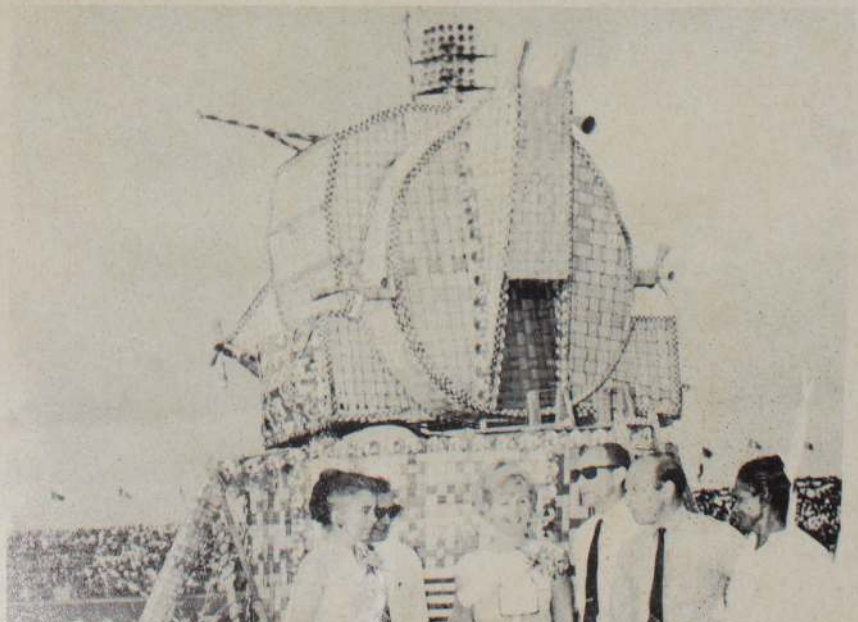
Sri Lanka was photographed from space by Gemini-11 astronaut Richard Gordon. View includes the Arabian Sea at left and the Bay of Bengal at right, with India and Sri Lanka between them. Radar antenna is in left foreground.

A view—and visitors—from space



Apollo-12 astronauts (left to right) Charles Conrad, Richard Gordon and Alan Bean in Kandy during 1970 visit.

With their wives, astronauts admire a "Gokkola" replica of the Apollo lunar landing module made by veteran craftsman Piyadasa.



Flexible assistance for a changing society

THE SPIRITUAL, MUSICAL, educational and recreational relations of the American and Ceylonese cultural exchange experience have been paralleled by close economic development co-operation conducted between the two countries. Beginning on November 7, 1950, the U.S.'s co-operative economic relationship with Sri Lanka has provided to date over \$200 million—over Rs. 1,275 million—of assistance. More than half has been in the form of grants, the balance in loans at liberal concessionary terms.

Since the signing of the 1956 Bilateral Economic Agreement, there have been twenty-two economic assistance loans provided by the United States to Sri Lanka. The USAID program has been both broad and flexible, designed to provide benefit to the entire society and always adaptable to changing conditions. Assistance during the late 1950s and early 1960s was used for a variety of projects and technical assistance programs, for example:

- during one five-year period, 370 Ceylonese received training in the United States.
- equipment ranging from diesel railroad engines and coaches to mechanized fishing vessels to chicken incubators.
- construction of a 22-mile highway between Alutnuwara and Padiyatalawa.
- on-the-job training was provided at the central irrigation repair shop.
- financial support for construction of a science teachers' college and a science training center.
- a seed-testing laboratory was established at Kandy to improve the quality of rice production.

More recent U.S. assistance has been in the form of U.S. Public Law 480 ("Food for Peace") food purchases which have included wheat, wheat-flour, food grains and rice. Loans in this

category have had a total value of about \$94 million.

In addition to the basic food program, nearly \$52 million in food products provided by aid have been distributed by CARE. The CARE program, since 1956, has provided wheat-flour, dried milk, cooking oil and corn-soya for distribution in Sri Lanka as diet-supplementing food for Ceylonese schoolchildren.

In addition to bilateral economic assistance, the U.S. participates in the work of the Colombo Plan and makes substantial contributions to the United Nations agencies and to international lending institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank. All of these organizations support international assistance efforts for the development of Sri Lanka.

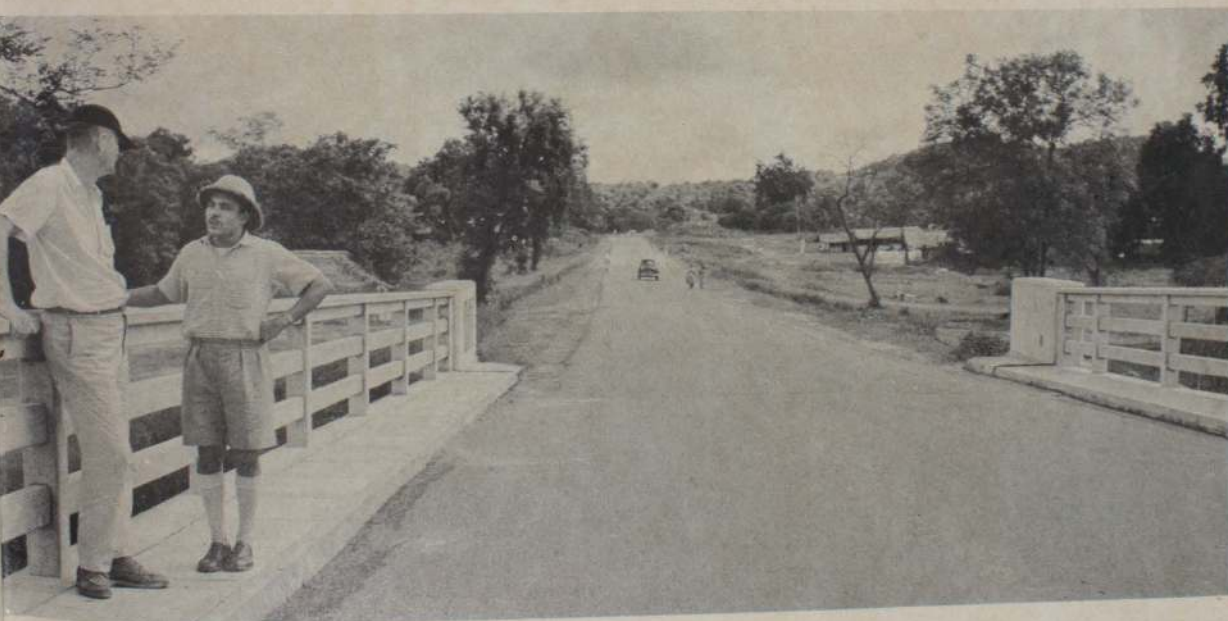
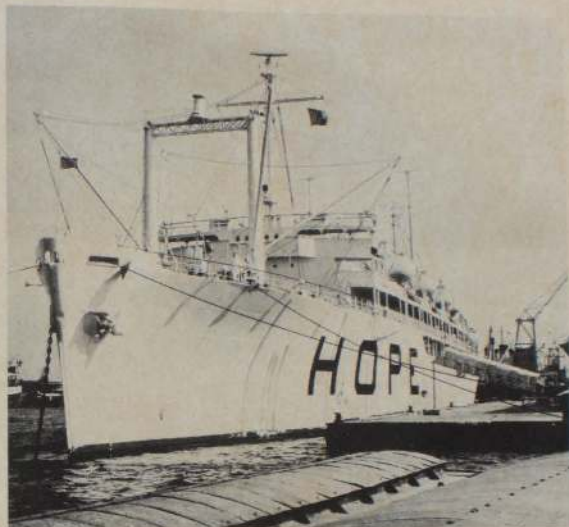
The United States is one of Sri Lanka's more important trading partners and in most years Sri Lanka has recorded a favorable balance in its trade with the United States. Recently, total trade between the two countries exceeded \$46.8 million—over RS. 294.7 million—the United States buying substantial quantities of tea, rubber, graphite, and other products.

There are several American business firms operating in Sri Lanka, including the Singer Sewing Machine Company, the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Corporation, Hyatt International and Union Carbide. Recently the Intercontinental Hotel Corporation joined with the Sri Lanka Government and with private Ceylonese investors, assisted by a \$3.5 million loan from the Export-Import bank in Washington, to construct the new Intercontinental hotel in Colombo. The foreign investment policies announced by the Sri Lanka government in 1972 may serve further to enhance the prospects of yet stronger economic partnership between the two countries.

To help increase passenger capacity, speed, convenience and safety of Sri Lanka's railways, U.S. provided power coaches.

As part of its effort to improve transportation facilities in Sri Lanka, the U.S. assisted in construction of a twenty-two mile highway between Alutuwara and Padiyatalawa.

The American hospital ship S.S. HOPE, visited Colombo in 1968 at the invitation of the Ceylonese Ministry of Health.







The late Mahanayake of the Malwatte Chapter the Venerable Amunigama Rajaguru Sri Vipassi Thero (second from left), inaugurated the USIS sponsored "Buddhist Art Treasures" exhibit in Colombo during the 1964 Vesak celebration. The present Mahanayake the Venerable Sri Sumana Panditha Sirimalwatte Ananda Thero (extreme right) was also present.

Common effort to foster democratic ideals



Prime Minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike thanks helicopter crews who participated in emergency food distribution and rescue operations during the 1957 floods.

Mr. Arthur Abeywardena of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Washington, D.C. presents Red Cross officials with 1,000 pound shipment of Ceylonese tea flown to the States in 1972, to aid American flood victims.

DISPARITIES IN ECONOMIC resources, stages of development and size obviously mean that exchanges between the two countries cannot always be conducted on a one-for-one basis. More important, however, is the spirit in which the exchange is conducted.

The spirit of Sri Lanka-American relations is well illuminated by two incidents—perhaps small in themselves, but most illustrative. When Sri Lanka suffered severe floods in 1957 and 1969, the United States flew in emergency assistance for the flood victims. When the Eastern United States suffered severe floods in the wake of Hurricane Agnes in 1972, Sri Lanka flew a 1,000 pound gift shipment of tea to the United States for distribution to flood victims in Pennsylvania. Such a mutuality of concern for the welfare of each other is the mark of the finest sort of international relationship.

As these many cases of cooperative effort reveal, the people of Sri Lanka and the United States of America have come a long way together. The future development of relations between the two countries and their proud people will owe much to the extraordinarily fine record of common effort directed toward the achievement of common goals established by Ceylonese and Americans working together over the years.



A message from
THE AMBASSADOR OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS YEAR SRI LANKA and the United States commemorate twenty-five years of diplomatic relations, but this formal relationship is rooted in a history of close and cooperative association between individual Ceylonese and Americans extending over more than one hundred and fifty years. Looking at this booklet, I was impressed with the breadth and variety of the common threads which have characterized the relationship between our two peoples. Citizens in both countries have enriched one another's cultural, religious and educational life and have contributed to the shared values and common interests which now form the firm foundations of our diplomatic relations. As Prime Minister Bandaranaike has noted in her introductory message, one of these shared values is the commitment to free elections and democratic government. Another is in the field of cooperative economic relations where, as President Nixon said in his Foreign Policy Message this year, "we hope to expand our cooperation and to assist Sri Lanka's progress." My family and I are proud to have the honor of representing the United States in Sri Lanka as we begin the second quarter-century of diplomatic relations. I will do my utmost to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two democratic countries to our mutual benefit and to the benefit of those who come after us.

CHRISTOPHER VAN HOLLEN
American Ambassador



20 JUL 1973

