

CEYLON *Today*

**P. M. on the Govern-
ment's Achievements**

The Festival of Vesak
WILLIAM PEIRIS

Ceylon and America

Vegetables from the Hill
B. H. HEMAPRIYA

Ceylon and India in Art

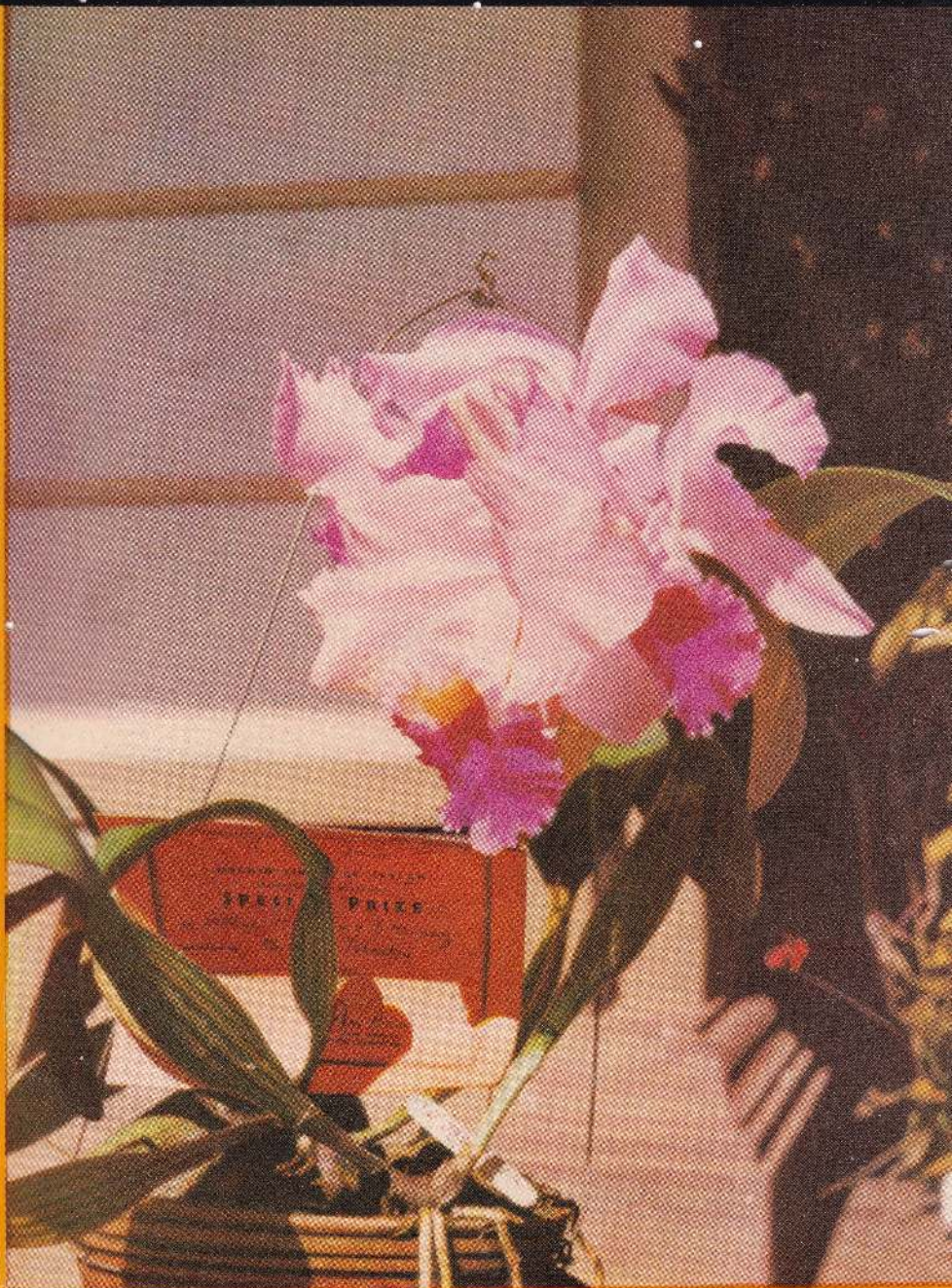
**The Employees' Provid-
ent Fund**

**Modernisation of Rail-
ways**
S. A. JOSEPH

Bandung Anniversary

Foreign Affairs

Laeliocattleya Tulyar



MAY, 1959

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OUR COVER PICTURE

The Orchid shown on our cover LAELIOCATTLEYA TULYAR was the best Orchid exhibited at 23rd Anniversary Show of the Orchid Circle of Ceylon.

The Orchid on the cover of the April issue of **Ceylon Today** is one of the CATTLEYA hybrids which was also on view at the 23rd Anniversary Show.

May, 1959

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to the Assistant Information Officer, Information
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P. M. on the Government's Achievements

ON the 23rd of April, the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, addressed a meeting of the Government Parliamentary Group. During the course of his speech he referred broadly to some of the Government's achievements and its plans for the future. We reproduce here the relevant sections of his speech.

We have now reached a stage in the life of this present Parliament that is very crucial and important. We have had more than half our term now ; for just over three years this Government has been in existence. During these three years we have been faced with various difficulties which we have faced up to and, I feel, fairly satisfactorily dealt with. In spite of these difficulties, external and internal, we have, I think I can say without exaggeration, accomplished quite a fair amount of work. The worst difficulties are behind us. The difficulties that are to arise in the future seem to be much less than they have been in the past.

At the same time there is quite a fair body of important work that faces us in the next 1½ years that is left to the present Parliament. What is that? As you know, with regard to constitutional electoral matters, the Election Law has been passed by the House

of Representatives and has to be dealt with by the Senate, which, I think, has certain far-reaching provisions that will enable the citizens and voters of this country to exercise that important right—the right of the vote—more efficiently than in the past. That is not yet law. There are all these Constitutional changes which we are considering which, I think, are very important for the future progress of this country on the democratic parliamentary path that it has adopted for itself. In connection with that an interim report of the Joint Select Committee on various constitutional matters with regard to Delimitation has been passed. The Delimitation Commission, as you know, is now at work.

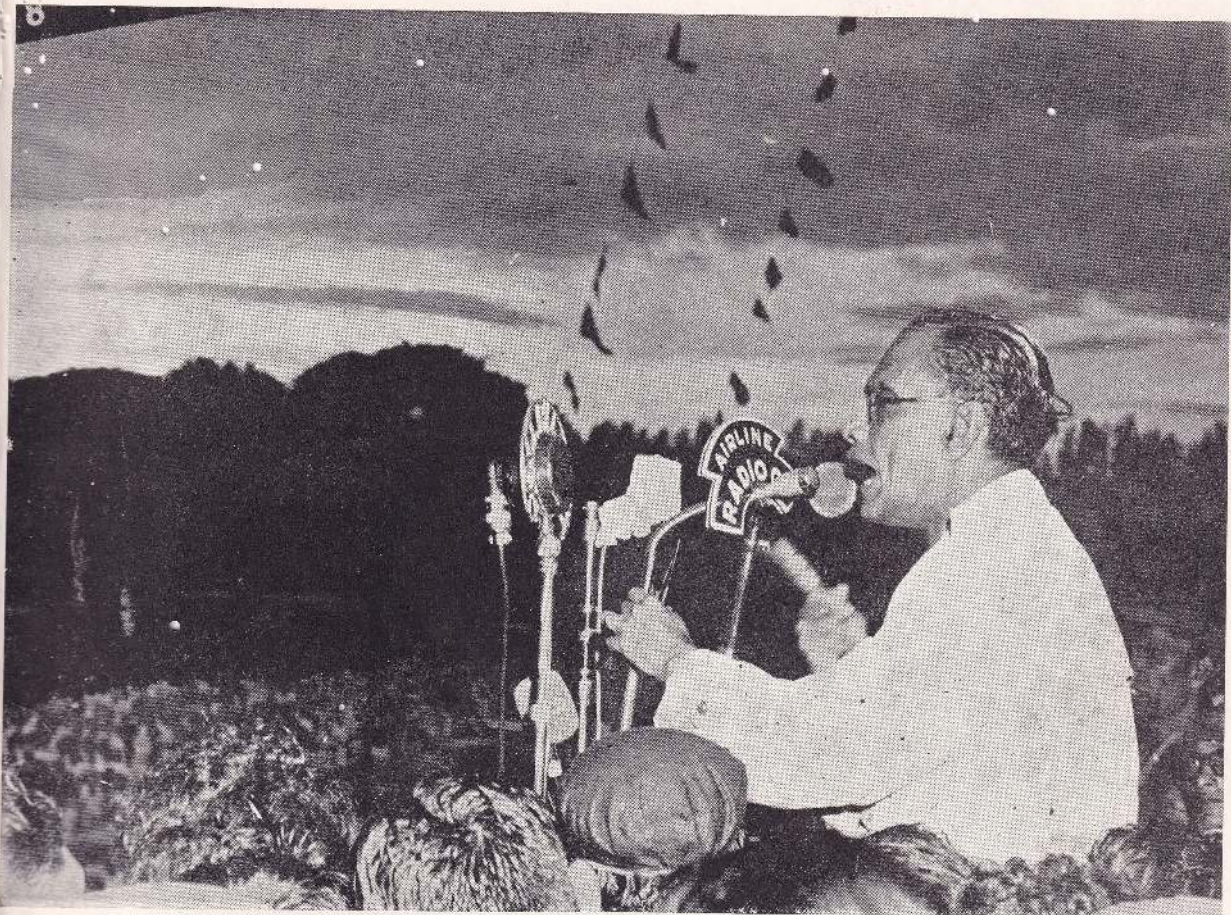
There are various Commissions whose reports are expected early. There is the Salaries Commission, the Wage Structure Commission for the entire wage structure of the private sector, and the Commission on the Cost of Living Index: three important Commissions, whose labours are nearing completion and whose reports will be in our hands in the course of a few months more. There is the Commission on the Cultural level, the Buddha Sasana Commission, which will be very helpful in dealing with the

subjects which they have had under consideration. All those are Commissions that are now at work and whose reports are likely to be forthcoming in a short time. Then there is the more important and somewhat detailed Plan of the Planning Council for the next five to ten years over the whole range of the national activities of this country. When that report is considered in due course by the Cabinet and the Parliamentary Group and it is placed before the country and before Parliament, the country will have some sort of clear view of the targets that this Government envisages

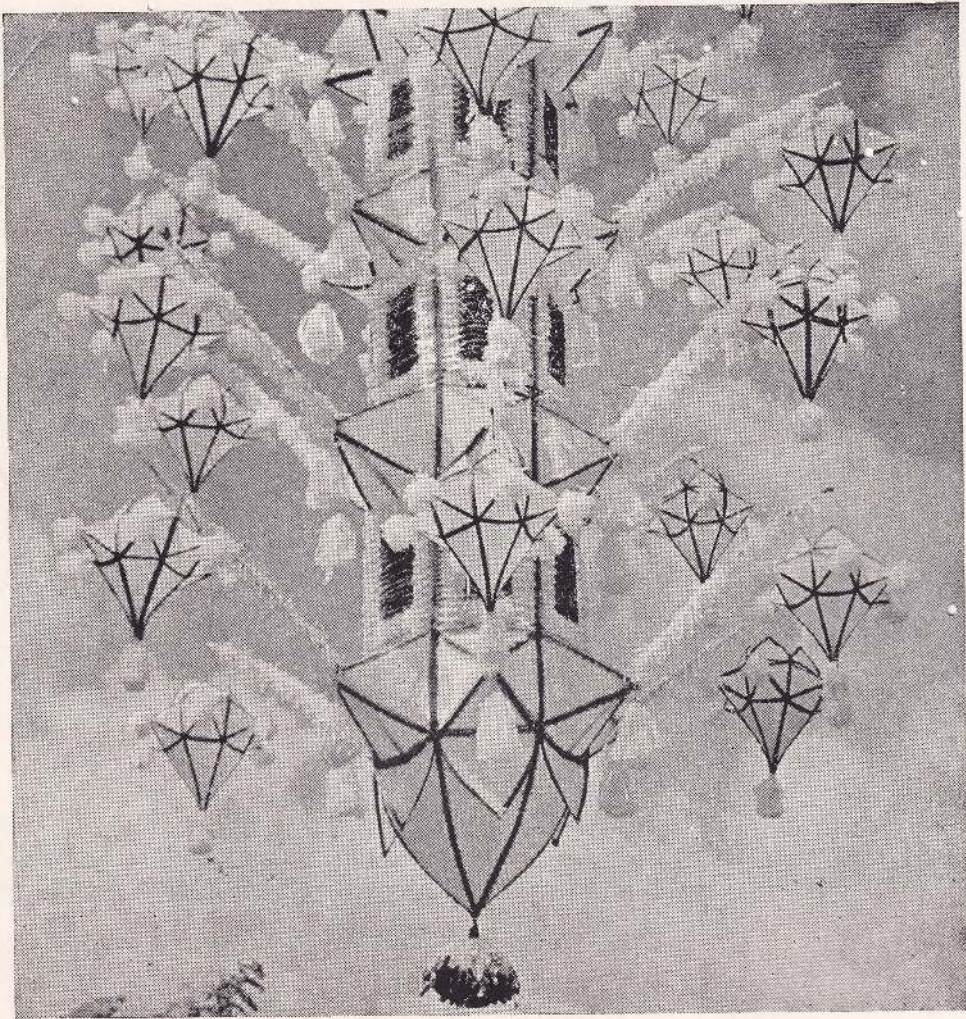
in the pursuance of its policies, for this country. It will also give a lead to the Government as to what further work beyond the work that is in hand now by way of new work in pursuance of those targets it proposes to undertake in the balance period that is left to the Government. I am reasonably convinced that in the normal course of events when Elections take place that this Government can go before the people of this country without any particular fear or feeling of shame with reference to its record in the previous five years as well as the work it has planned for the years beyond that.

A section of the large crowd which attended the Rally organised at the Independence Square in Colombo by the M. E. P. to Commemorate May Day. The Prime Minister addressed this Rally





The Prime Minister addressing the May Day rally at Independence Square



A Vesak lantern

The Festival of Vesak

WILLIAM PEIRIS

THE festival of Vesak which falls on the Full Moon day of May has great religious and historical significance for the vast majority of the people of Ceylon, for it commemorates a dual event—the birthday of the Buddha and of the Sinhala nation. Now that the Bandaranaike government has restored Buddhism to its rightful place and made

Sinhala the official language of the State, this festival is celebrated today with greater éclat.

To the Buddhist the Full Moon day of the month of Vesak or May is a thrice sacred day. It was on the Vesak Full Moon day about 623 years before the Christian era that Siddharta Gotama, who attained Buddhahood

or Full Enlightenment, in his 35th year, was born in Lumbini Park, Kapilavatthu, modern Nepal. It was again on the Vesak Full Moon day that he attained Buddhahood under a Bo-tree in Uruwela, near Gaya. It was also on the Vesak Full Moon day about 543 B.C. that he passed away in Kusinara.

The son of King Suddhodana and Queen Maya, Siddharta Gotama married a cousin, Yasodara, the gentle and beautiful daughter of the King of Koli, and led a luxurious life. In his 29th year, however, he realised that all, without exception, were subject to disease, old age and death, and that the worldly pleasures were only a prelude to pain. An irresistible desire to probe the mystery of life and to find a remedy for the ills of existence urged him to renounce the world which he did on the very day his son, Rahula, was born.

Life as Ascetic

FOR six long years thereafter he led the life of an ascetic, practising all forms of self-mortification. He approached well known religious teachers of his day for an answer to the life's riddle, but found that the way they pointed out led to a cul-de-sac. He continued his quest, and as he went on he realised the utter futility of self-mortification. He thereupon followed a middle course, avoiding the two extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification. At last, by intense concentration, he developed the fullest insight and wisdom and discovered the Four Noble Truths—suffering, its origin, its cessation and the Noble Eighthfold Path that leads to the cessation of suffering.

As a man he attained Full Enlightenment or Sammasambodhi, and proclaimed to the world the latent possibilities and the creative power of man. His successful ministry lasted forty-five years during which he established an Order of Monks which exists to this day.

Buddhism Today

WHAT part can Buddhism play in the modern world? Dr. E. A. Burtt, Professor of Philosophy, Cornell University, answers this question as follows:—

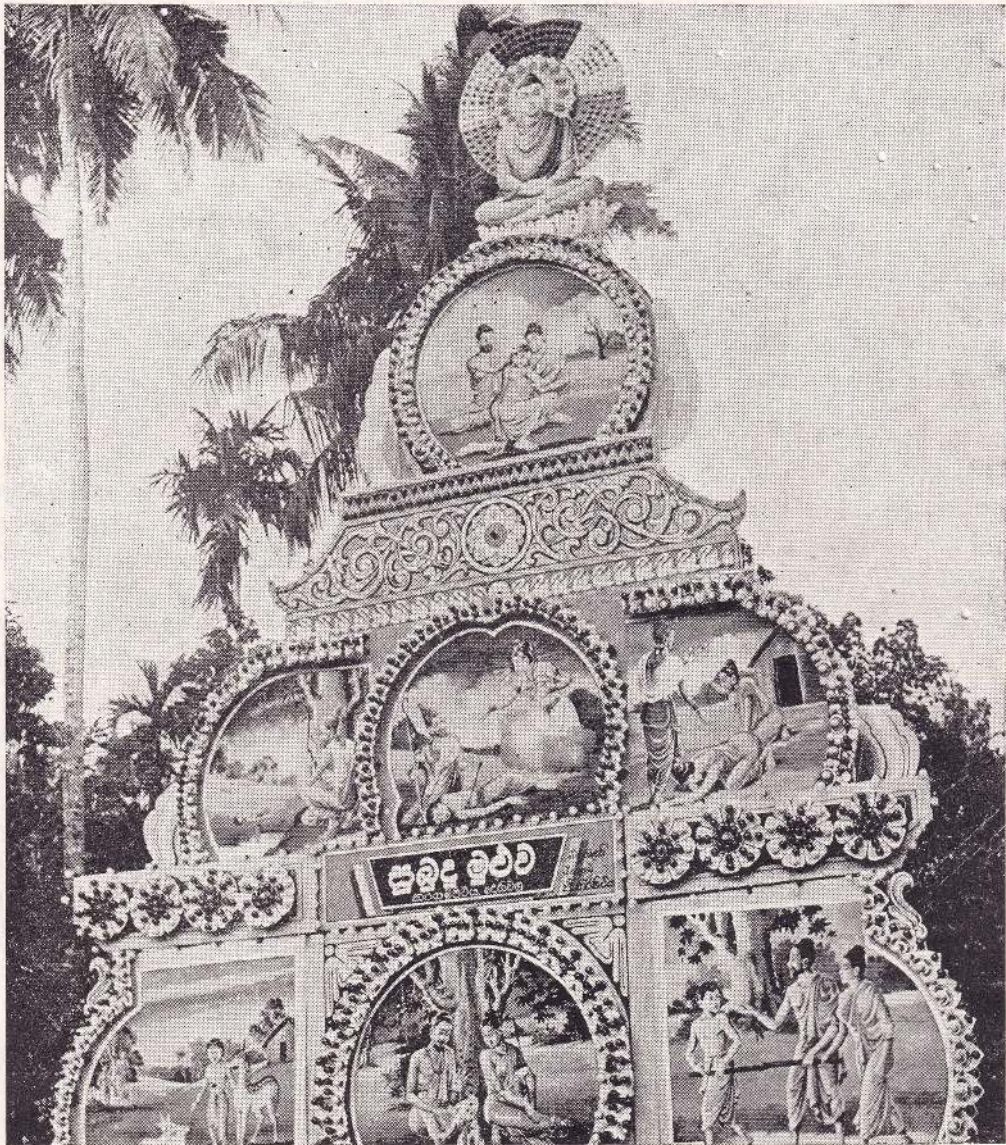
“When I look round the world, I am convinced that, now more than ever before, there is a great need for men to be made acquainted with the sublime teachings of the Lord Buddha. It is true that these teachings have been forgotten even in the land of their birth to a large extent, but their vitality is still very great.”

“Everywhere there are signs of a great Buddhist renaissance; whatever people may say, from Japan to Ceylon, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, men and women are making serious inquiries about this wonderful religion which today, 25 centuries after its birth, still gives solace to more than one-fifth of humanity.”

“What are the features of Buddhism that are of predominant value to us of the twentieth century? To my mind, there are five aspects of the Teachings which deserve to be emphasised. The first is what I would call the humanistic approach of the Buddha to the world's problems. Other religions declare that whatever man may do, the ultimate results of his labours depend on the will of a God. (It is this God that decides the destiny both of individuals and of the world. Men must have faith that God will save them and this is characteristically stated in the Christian saying that God helps those that help themselves. It is God that is the final arbiter.)

“Not so with Buddhism.

“Man can, in the Buddha's teaching, be sole and complete master of his destiny. This has tremendous political and social implications. It means that if we accept the Buddha's teaching, the world's problems can and must be solved by human ingenuity and human effort. The world is in a sorry mess because of our ignorance and our folly: if



A Vesak Pandal

we mean to remedy the present state of affairs, the responsibility and the decision is ours and no one else's.

"Other religions lay stress on various static realities: heaven, hell and human personality called the soul, for instance, while Buddhism teaches a dynamic conception of the universe, of soul and of society. (It is this

conception of an unchanging, permanent soul that makes men selfish, each one regarding himself as a separate entity, whose welfare must be sought, irrespective of what happens to the rest. It is the same conception that drives men to seek security, that fills them with fear and suspicion, that breeds the spirit of competition.)

"The Buddhist conception that there is no unchanging entity whatsoever in the world, that all that there is, are processes, streams of activities, whose every stage depends on what has gone before, and that there is no 'self' which I must strive to save, that all living things are inextricably bound together, that the only salvation in which all share, these are all doctrines which can give a new orientation to humanity and make them change their habits of thought and action.

"And, incidentally, it has to be recognised that all the discoveries of modern science have confirmed the dynamic conception of the universe which the Buddha taught two thousand five hundred years ago.

"The Buddha recognised that human knowledge has its limitations and that it is futile to wait till all our questions are answered before leading the way of a good life. He did not try to explain such things as the origin of the world and how it began. In this he was an agnostic, but he did not deny that metaphysical knowledge was within the reach of the human intellect. Nirvana, the Buddha taught, is synonymous with immortality, but it is all immortality, that is beyond time. Modern positivism has come to the same conclusions about metaphysical problems as were envisaged in the Buddha's teaching.

"The Buddha was the first great teacher who emphasised an equalitarian faith in man, who stated quite definitely that whatever is best for man should be open to all men and women without any exception whatsoever. There is nothing that men cannot achieve, whatever be their class or colour or race.

"And finally, there is the towering personality of the Buddha himself, his courage, his readiness to face all ordeals, his wisdom, his love and above all, his calm serenity. He did not claim any special greatness which was beyond the reach of all others. He claimed no power and no authority. He is our elder brother, our friendly companion in the Good Life which he calls upon us to follow.

"These are some of the contributions which Buddhism can undoubtedly make to the world of today. Religion becomes a live force only to the extent that men and women professing it live according to its precepts in their daily round. It is for us, who call ourselves followers of the Lord Buddha, to determine whether or not Buddhism shall continue to be a dominant force in the life of humanity.

"I submit that world religion is still in its youth. We live in a great epoch of human advancement. Buddhism has a very significant place in our time. The world awaits a comforting message of hope and cheer. What can be more comforting than to be assured that our problems, however serious, are not beyond solution by human effort, by our earnestness and sincerity?"

Visits to Lanka

PALI tradition affirms that the Buddha thrice hallowed Lanka with his presence to consecrate it as the holy land of his religion. Nine months after his Full Enlightenment, the Buddha came to Mahiyangana on the banks of Mahaveli river, where he preached his doctrine to the evil-doing Yakkas and converted them to his religion. Among the audience was God Sumana of Samantakuta who was so moved by the preaching that he asked the Buddha for an object of worship to be used after the Buddha's departure. The Buddha then gave him a lock of hair which is said to be enshrined in the great dagoba at Mahiyangana which, after centuries of neglect, is now being renovated at a cost of twenty-five lakhs of rupees. Mahiyangana is thus unique in having a relic received from the Buddha's own hands. After the Buddha's death, Arahant Sarabhu obtained a collarbone of the Buddha and had it enshrined in the same dagoba, when it was subsequently encased by another dagoba 30 cubits high. This was in turn encased by a third dagoba, 80 cubits in height, erected on the orders of King Dutugemunu (161 B.C.).

The Buddha's second visit to Ceylon was in the fifth year of his Buddhahood. He was invited to settle a dispute between two Naga princes, Chulodhara and Mahodara of Nagadipa, modern Jaffna.

The third visit was to Kelaniya in the eighth year of his Buddhahood. He came on the invitation of Naga Prince Maniakkikha, who built a dagoba in honour of the visit. But the existing dagoba was initiated by King Yatalatissa. The Buddha is said to have left the impress of his foot on the swirling eddy of the Kelani river. Hard by the spot on the banks of the river a stone slab, now in the Kelaniya temple premises, perpetuated in royal times the site where the Buddha laid his robe before stepping into the water. Legend says that a mystical light on the stone slab illumined the river by night. From Kelaniya the Buddha is said to have gone to Sri Pada (Adam's Peak) where he left the impress of his foot, and then to Divaguha, Deeghavapi, Mutiyangana and Anuradhapura.

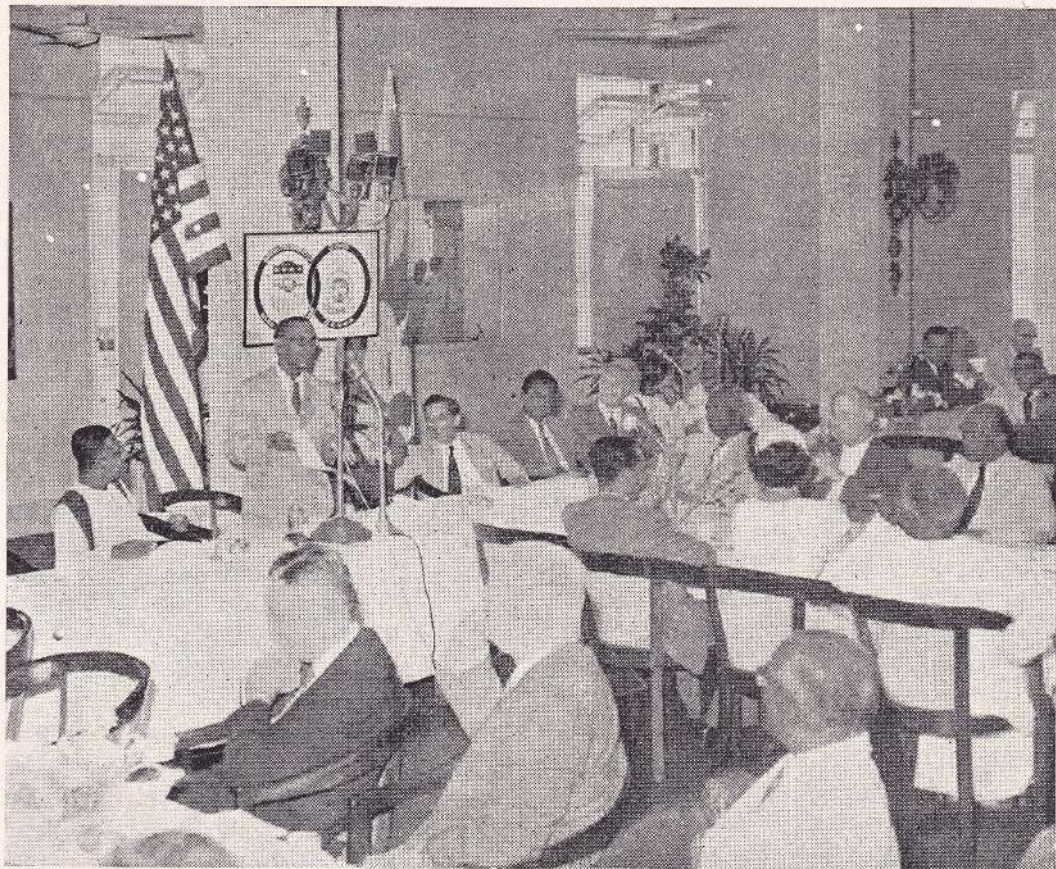
It was on the identical Vesak Full Moon day on which the Buddha passed away that Prince Vijaya, the founder of the Sinhala nation, landed in Ceylon. The *Mahavansa* records that as the Buddha lay dying in the Sal grove of Kusinara he declared that Prince Vijaya with his followers was at the moment landing in Lanka in which Buddhism would flourish, and bade Sakka, the King of gods, to protect the prince, his followers and Lanka. Sakka entrusted this task to the "lily-coloured" god Vishnu who immediately vanished and alighted in Lanka in the guise of a Sanyasi, poured consecrated water over

Vijaya's hands, dedicating the island to him, and tied sacred thread on his arms and on those of his followers to guard them against the enchantments of the Yakkas who possessed the land. Thus was established the connection of the Vesak day over twenty-five centuries ago with the birth of the Sinhala nation.

Another event firmly set the seal of the association of Vesak day with the national life. When the Sakyas were driven away from their capital, Kapilavastu, by King Vidudabha, Sakya princes, sons of the Buddha's cousins german, took refuge in Lanka, allied themselves with the royal family of Vijaya and settled down in various parts of the country. Ultimately one of their descendants, Pandukabhaya, with the aid of the aboriginal Yakkas, terminated Vijaya's royal line and established the Sakya dynasty in his own person on the throne of Lanka (B.C. 437).

The Sakya dynasty fills the most brilliant pages of the history of Ceylon and counts on its roll national heroes like Devanampiyatissa and Dutugemunu. Lanka has the proud distinction of having had as her kings members of the royal race to which the Buddha belonged. Sakya kings created in Ceylon the ideal Buddhist State: they built hospitals for human beings and animals, abolished capital punishment, proclaimed immunity to beast and bird and provided liberally for the service of religion. Some of them went so far as to declare on stone that it was only a Bodhisatta (aspirant to Buddhahood) who was fit to occupy the throne of Lanka.

Once again Vesak Day has come round with its message of compassion to all living beings.



The Prime Minister speaking at the luncheon held at the G. O. H., Colombo, on April 28, 1959, to celebrate the third anniversary of American assistance to Ceylon under the Ceylon-American Economic and Technical Co-operation Programme

Ceylon and America

THE Third Anniversary celebration of the Ceylon-America Economic and Technical Co-operation Programme 1956-1959 was marked by a luncheon at the Grand Oriental Hotel, Colombo, at which the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, was present. We give below the text of the speech he made on the occasion.

This is a very pleasant function. You will see that the United States of America, apart from giving us the very generous assistance—economic, technical (some details of which appear on this little booklet that is placed before you), have also thought of another way of assistance of giving us this most excellent lunch which, may I say on behalf

of all of us here, we have very greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

Now, you will notice in this booklet a quotation from the President of the United States, President Eisenhower, "The mutual confidence that comes from working together on constructive projects creates an atmosphere in which a real understanding of peace can flourish". Well, there are a number of benefits besides those that have been put in that way by the President that accrue from this assistance. As you know when many of our countries, particularly those in Asia, regained their freedom once again a matter of 10 or 11 years ago, one of the most important—probably the most important—

problem with which we were all faced was the problem of numerous economic difficulties.

Our friends throughout the world have come to our assistance in meeting this problem even to a small extent and among our friends in the world who have so come to the assistance of our country I think the United States of America is easily the most important. You will see that the total contribution from 1956 to 1959 is some Rs. 208.8 million worth of assistance—economic, and technical. The full total I believe roughly is 500 million rupees, that is of the total assistance which we have received from other countries over 50 per cent. has come from the United States of America. You will see details of that assistance in this little booklet. I must thank Mr. Roach for supplying me that information. You will notice that this booklet contains most of those particulars and you will see a wide range of assistance has been received by us, land development, agricultural development, transportation development, industrial development, natural resources development, educational development, health services development, the 1958 flood contributions, funds accruing from food commodity sales, miscellaneous help such as that we get from CARE for giving the mid-day meal for school children.

Impressive List

THAT is a very impressive list indeed! And all I can say, Mr. Roach, through you to your country on behalf of the people and the Government of Ceylon are the two words 'Thank you'.

Mr. Roach referred to our glorious past while omitting to say anything about our not so glorious present. It is our objective, naturally, amidst various difficulties that face us, to move forward to a if not glorious present and future at least to one that will give a reasonable measure of peace and prosperity and happiness to our people. That is a task in which many of our countries

are engaged in, amidst, as you know difficulties of various kinds that have cropped up, from time to time.

Of course the type of assistance that we have been getting is invaluable. It is most helpful to us in those tasks of reconstruction and the achievement of economic stability towards which we have all strived.

It has occurred to me that there are certain problems beyond those that can be dealt with by this type of assistance, most generous assistance which we are receiving from our friends. That is to bring our minds to bear on some of those problems that I have, as you are no doubt aware, put forward in the proposal to hold an Economic Conference of our under-developed countries—if you like that phrase, of Asia and Africa. As you know there is a great deal of truth in the saying "that God helps those who help themselves". I do not want my country or any of our countries to sink to the position of being dependent for our economic prosperity, or indeed for our economic existence, on the generous help which many of our friends throughout the world are prepared to give. We have also to help ourselves. It is with that basic idea at the back of my mind that I have made this proposal to a number of other countries both in Asia and Africa, who have, I am glad to say, welcomed the proposal, which, I think, will materialise towards the end of this year. Indeed I am hoping that preliminary discussions will take place during the month of May when certain preliminaries will be worked out.

What are these problems. I do not propose to deal at length on the problems. Many of our countries are still agricultural producers. It is still a continuance of an earlier colonial type of economy which we have not yet been able to get rid of. We are primarily agricultural producers. We have our tea, our coconut, our rubber and other similar products. Now, our economy cannot be stabilised until we have some assurance of the stabilization of prices within certain

reasonable limits. That will be one of the chief functions or the chief tasks to which this projected Conference will address its mind. We cannot fix these prices until we can bring about some form of united action. We will then have to get in touch with the chief buyers of our primary products in order to reach some sort of arrangement. I do not think it is at all impossible to have a reasonable stabilisation of prices. What is happening now? Many of our countries—take this country—is proceeding apace with its labour laws, its wage rates and so on which indeed is quite right, but we are still dependent on utterly uncertain markets. Rubber for instance varies so much in prices from month to month. What is going to be the economic position of our country? Now that is one of the few difficulties of our economy. I think some attempt must be made and it will be made to deal with that as far as it can be dealt with reasonably.

Problem of Food

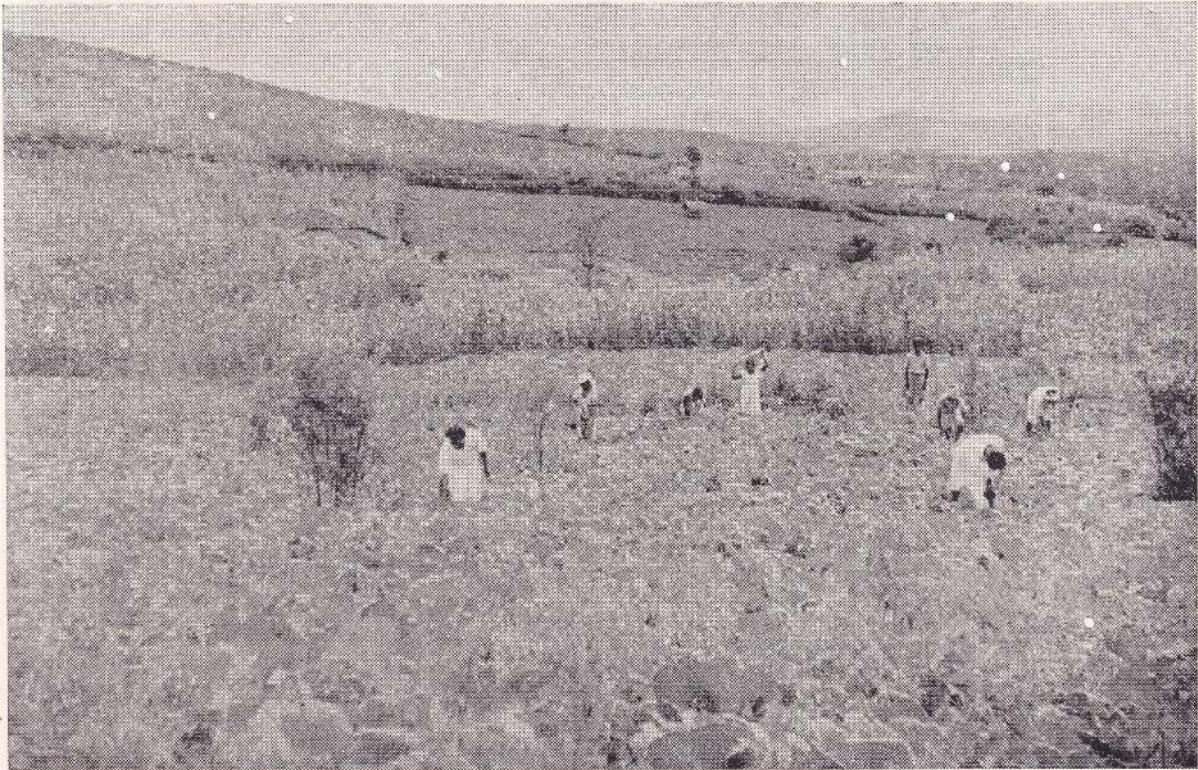
ANOTHER problem is the problem of food that we are faced with. There are millions of consumers of rice but there are only a very few surplus rice producing countries in our region—Burma, Thailand and China. We have some of us who think, owing to the uncertainties of this position, of trying to be self-sufficient in rice production even though it may not be economic. Well now, that is a problem we must discuss amongst ourselves to see whether with the kind of agreement with the surplus producing countries to obtain the necessary rice to enable us to direct our agricultural economy over a period of years in the light of such arrangement. Today “we live a hand to mouth existence”. Another problem is freight. That is you know about the shipping position in our region is very unsatisfactory. We are so almost totally dependent upon shipping combines elsewhere over our freight that as you may well imagine creates difficulties, of course. Very few countries in Asia have any Merchant marine ;

Japan to some extent, and an infinitesimal extent, India. So that is obviously another problem to which I think we might address our minds.

Most of our countries in this region are only at the beginning of industrialisation. That is also a legacy of colonial government. They never encouraged their colonies to industrialise. Very well. I am not concerned with that past. I am concerned with the present and the future. It is not going to be an easy task for us to prevent uneconomic industrialisation. I certainly think we must address our minds to that difficult task.

I have mentioned to you four matters where we must address our own minds with the help of our good friends and other countries who are willing to help us and these countries have to be fitted in which will then ensure a far better chance of securing economic stability in our countries and avoiding so many other dire consequences which can flow, and probably will flow, politically and otherwise from economic instability.

I have nothing more to say except to say in conclusion as I did at the start how much we appreciate the great assistance that the Government of the United States of America as well as other Agencies of that country are doing. What after all is this 208 million to that wealthy country. It is a bagatelle. However to us it is an appreciable amount and we appreciate it, and I also thank Mr. Roach and his predecessor and all the officers and personnel of the U. S. O. M. for their extreme patience and understanding in carrying out this very important work that has been entrusted to them. On the first page you will see intertwined the emblem of the United States and the emblem of our own country, with two hands clasped ; that is very significant and, may I say, very correct. May I therefore, give you a toast on this occasion, the toast of co-operation and friendship between our two countries—United States of America and Ceylon.



First crop of a cabbage plantation at Udikinda. Earlier this area was covered with wild cover vegetation. The rest of the land is being cleared for cultivation

Vegetables from the Hill

B. H. HEMAPRIYA, *Press Officer*

THE patana hillsides of Udukinda and Yatikinda in the Province of Uva, which were hitherto covered with mana and other non-descript wild cover vegetation, are rapidly giving way to "estate scale" cultivations of popular up-country vegetables. Thus, where once the mana and illuk held sway, today the casual observer can see an undulating landscape of cabbage, knol khol, radishes, beet and beans. These "estate scale" vegetable plantations are really contiguous acre blocks of land alienated to the landless peasantry of Udukinda and Yatikinda. Thousands of acres are still being allotted

to the landless in this area through Land Kachcheries for vegetable cultivation.

Today in the hill-slopes of Udukinda alone 4,000 acres of patna land have been brought under vegetable cultivation. In Yatikinda, a little under 300 acres have been planted with cabbage. Government officers supervise these plantations advising the cultivators on methods of scientific cultivation, manuring, usage of insecticides and means of combating soil erosion.

The decision by Government to alienate crown land in this area for vegetable cultivation was a sequel to a recent tour of the

Udukinda and Yatikinda area by the Minister of Lands and Land Development, Honourable C. P. de Silva. The Minister had in view a scheme to develop the patana land on the visible hill-tops, in tea. During subsequent inspections the Minister had an opportunity of seeing for himself some vegetable plots on hill-tops. An examination of the economics of these vegetable cultivations showed him that if more peasants were encouraged to cultivate vegetables in this area and if better methods of transport and marketing of the vegetables in the urban areas could be ensured, then the existing prices of essential vegetables in urban areas

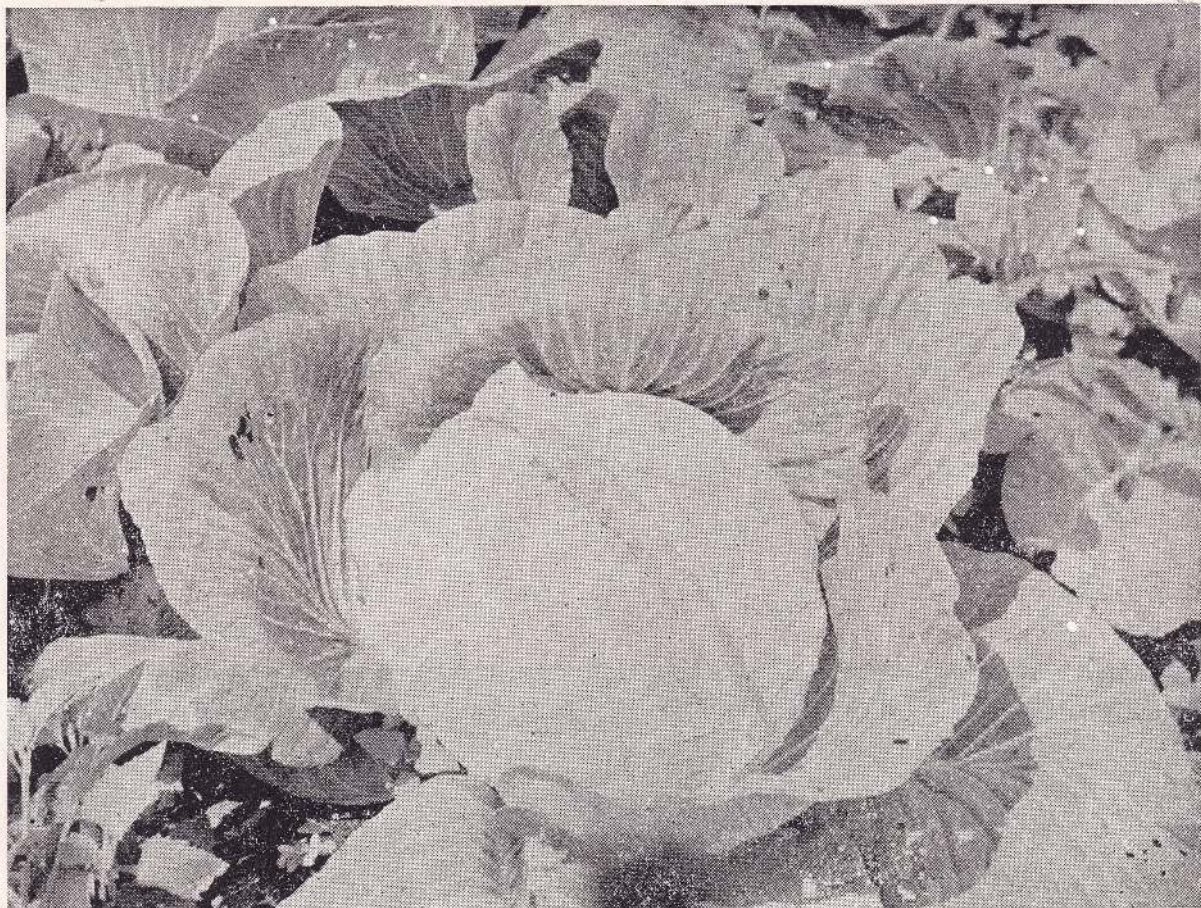
could be less than halved. This would result not only in lowering the cost of living in the urban areas but also provide the landless peasantry in Uva with a profitable means of continuous employment.

Four Thousand Acres

INQUIRIES conducted by the Ministry of Lands and Land Development revealed that a vegetable cultivator could earn a nett income of Rs. 2,500 per year from an acre plot of cabbages grown in rotation with other crops. With this precisely in mind, the

Cabbages grown on the new estate





Cabbage grown on the new estate

Minister of Lands and Land Development, directed that a scheme of alienation of land for vegetable cultivators in the hillslopes of these areas should be started immediately. In a matter of few months over 4,000 acres were alienated in Udukinda and a little under 300 acres were alienated in Yatikinda for the landless in this area.

Now on his instructions a comprehensive scheme of assistance is being drawn up whereby co-operative organisations would make arrangements for supplying vegetable seeds, garden implements, fertilizers, insecticides to these cultivators. The Minister has

emphasized that care should be taken to provide co-operative transporting and marketing facilities to these cultivators so that middlemen could be prevented from cutting into the profits of the cultivator. Indications are that before the end of this year over 10,000 acres of crown land in the Udukinda and Yatikinda areas would be under large scale vegetable cultivation.

As the cultivations are located in hillslopes great care is being taken to ensure that there is no soil erosion. The Minister has suggested that assistance should be given to the cultivators to prevent soil erosion.

Ceylon and India in Art

THE following is the text of the speech delivered by Shri V. C. Vijayaraghavan, Acting High Commissioner for India in Ceylon, at the Art Gallery, Colombo, at the opening of the Sri Palee Past Pupils' Arts, Crafts and Photographic Exhibition, on March 16th.

It is indeed a great privilege for me to be with you this afternoon. The intimate links between the Vishva Bharati University at Shantiniketan—the abode of peace—and the Sri Palee where the Goddess of beauty reigns, and the affection and understanding that marked the relations between Guru Dev Rabindranath Tagore and Shri Wilmot A. Perera, the founder of *Sri Palee*, are well known. I understand also that the Secretary of your Association is an old boy of the Calcutta University. Viewed in this context I consider the invitation to participate in this ceremony a singular honour.

I am neither an artist nor an art critic. I am merely a simple man just like other simple men and women who love beauty in any form. It is said that "The beautiful is in nature, and it is encountered under most diverse forms of reality." The layman today is forced to ask whether some of our artists are blind to beauty, or can their vision of beauty be only reflected in ugliness and distortion. Exponents of this new trend in art say that beauty, like truth, is relative to the time when one lives. But, asks the sceptic, has the time changed as radically in our countries in the past years that the relative value of beauty has undergone a regression?

Admirers of the new trend point out to us that the world grows grimmer daily and that the outlook for humanity is desperate. No doubt, the hydrogen bomb, the space missiles, pose a threat to the world and to all that we hold sacred. But it is difficult to forget that in every age there have been

devastatingly destructive weapons of the times, to which human ingenuity has found answers. One may ask the artist whether the marvellous application of technology to human welfare, the re-building of impoverished nations, the growing freedom from slavery and cruel oppression, the resuscitation and recognition of the dignity of man do not inspire him to "Open up yet another fragment of the frontier of beauty?"

Our Countries

AT present great struggles and strivings are being made to build our countries and to make our people happy and contented. This is a mighty effort against tremendous odds which stirs up our souls and brings out the best in us.

I am quite certain that the artists of this country, a great number of whom are past pupils of this great institution, see beauty in this struggle, in this throbbing life around them, and seeing, produce visions which will touch our hearts and inspire us to greater efforts.

As you all know the *Sri Palee* Trust has *inter alia* declared its wish to promote "Cultural exchange between the people of Ceylon and India and to foster the affinity of mind and mutual obligations established throughout the years by a long tradition of friendly contact between the peoples of Ceylon and India." Ceylon's association with India has been a long one. From the advent of Vijaya, Mahinda and Sangamitta and the arrival of the great Buddhagosa in Anuradhapura in order to write his commentaries on the sacred scriptures of Buddhism, to the present day, the cultural relations between our two countries have indeed been of tremendous dimensions. The cultural history of the two countries has also shown that the

(Continued on page 18)

The Employees' Provident Fund

AN employee can make his nomination in Form H when the Employee's Record Card and membership certificate in respect of that employee are being filled in. In the event of his death prior to retirement from employment, the benefits due to that employee from the Fund will be payable to the person nominated. A nomination made by a member can be revoked at any time by a notice sent to the Commissioner of Labour in Form I. A person can nominate more than one person to receive the benefits. Nomination forms and revocation forms must be forwarded through the employer under whom the employee is working. The Commissioner of Labour has the power, if he is satisfied that any nomination or revocation was obtained under duress or by fraud, to refuse to recognise such nomination or revocation. Subsequent nominations arising as a result of a revocation of a nomination or by the lapse of a nomination must be made in Form J.

It is possible for an employee, if more than one person is nominated, to specify the proportion in which the money is to be divided. If a person does not specify the proportion, then the Commissioner of Labour will pay the money out in equal shares. Where the person nominated, or where one of several persons nominated by an employee dies, the entire nomination will automatically become invalid. Similarly, the nomination made by a person will become invalid on his or her marriage. A married person cannot nominate anybody other than one or more members of his family, that is to say, a wife or husband as the case may be, and the children of the employee or the children of the spouse, including adopted children. Where a person nominated is a minor, the employee can name some other person to receive the money on behalf of the minor. Such an appointment can also be revoked

and will be deemed to be revoked where the person so appointed dies. The appointment will also cease to be valid when the minor attains majority. It is not obligatory on an employee to make a nomination, but it is advisable for him to do so as such nomination will prevent delay in the payment of the benefits in the event of the member's death prior to his receiving his benefits.

Change of Employment

AN employee must, when he leaves one employment and takes up another, produce his Membership Certificate to the new employer. This is very important. Employees should preserve the Membership Certificates and other documents that may be received from the Commissioner of Labour and the Central Bank in relation to their membership in the Fund in their own interest. They should keep a record of their membership number. If a certificate is lost, a duplicate copy can be obtained from the Employees' Provident Fund Office on payment of a fee. In order to prevent duplicate account being opened for them, employees should, whenever they change their employments, inform the Employees' Provident Fund Office and also the new employer of the last membership number, and the name of the former employer. It is legally obligatory for an employee to give such notification. Failure to do so constitutes an offence. These precautions are necessary to ensure that a member does not have more than one account.

Records to be kept by Employers

EMPLOYERS will be required to keep a copy of the Return in Form C that they send monthly to the Central Bank along with the contributions. They are also required to send

a duplicate of it to the Employees' Provident Fund Office every month. Copies of Returns kept by the employer are liable to be inspected by officers of the Department of Labour. Returns received by the Employees' Provident Fund Office will be checked regularly in order to ensure the correctness of the contributions. The Department of Labour will take up with the employers concerned, the question of errors, arrears or under-remittances. Employers will be required to forward to the Commissioner of Labour all documents which employees are required to forward to him through the employer.

Persons entitled to Membership

EVERY person in a "covered employment" will be liable to contribute to the Fund. There is no distinction based on salary or on any other basis. The only exceptions are those persons employed in managerial, executive or technical employments for whom retirement benefits are provided by any provident fund or pension scheme or some other arrangement established outside Ceylon. Persons who are employed as partners, a person holding a post of director, and persons who are non-residents of Ceylon and are employed in branch establishments or out-agencies established in a country outside Ceylon are also not covered by the Act. Furthermore, any employee who is already a contributor, or who is liable to contribute to any provident fund or pensions scheme which has been declared an "approved provident fund" or "approved pension scheme" will also not be liable to contribute to the Employees' Provident Fund. Every other person, whatever his position may be, whatever his salary may be, will contribute to the Fund.

Persons who are employed purely on a casual basis, that is, for the purpose of doing a particular job, or in connection with a particular journey, are not deemed to be persons in "Covered Employments". For instance, a labourer who is hired by the

occupant of a house to repair a roof or to colour-wash a house, or by a traveller to transport baggage on a journey, is not deemed to be covered by the provisions of this Act, and he is not liable to contribute to this Fund. However, persons who are in common parlance referred to as "casual" or "temporary" employees will be considered as coming within the provisions of the Act and the employer will be liable to contribute in respect of such workers. The term "casual employee" will be interpreted very strictly. A person who is in a "covered employment" will contribute right from the date on which he becomes liable to contribute even though he may be employed as a probationer or learner. Apprentices are also regarded as "employees".

Payment of benefits

A PERSON is entitled to payment of benefits from the Fund if, after reaching the 55th year in the case of a male, and 50 years in the case of a female, he or she has ceased to be employed, or, if, prior to that date, the person leaves Ceylon with no intention of returning thereto, or, if, prior to normal retirement date, he or she is certified by a medical practitioner to be suffering from a permanent and total infirmity which precludes his or her working thereafter, or, in the case of a female employee, she ceases to be employed in consequence of marriage. Every person entitled to benefits must make a claim in Form K and, where a person is dead, the claim should be made in Form L by his nominee or by the executors or administrators of his last will, or, where the amount is less than Rs. 2,500, by the legal heirs of the deceased member. The claim will have to be made through the employer under whom the deceased member was last employed and the employer on his part will have to furnish the information required of him on the form and forward the claim to the Commissioner of Labour. Where this is not possible, the Commissioner of Labour can authorise the claim to be made direct to him.

The claim for payment of benefits must be made by the employee himself if he is alive unless he is physically or mentally incapacitated. Where the employee is dead, the claim will be made by the nominee if there is a valid nomination existing, and where the nominee is a minor, by the person appointed by the employee. If there is no valid nomination existing, the claim may be made by the executors of the last will or the administrators of the estate of the deceased person, or where the amount available as benefits is less than Rs. 2,500, the claim may be made by the legal heirs of the deceased employee.

The date of birth declared by the employee in the Employee's Record Card (Form A) will, for all practical purposes, be regarded as the date of birth of the employee when benefits are paid. The Commissioner of Labour can, however, make further inquiries regarding the actual date of birth if he has reason to believe that the date stated in Form A is incorrect.

When a claim is made all documents necessary to support the claim should be furnished. In the case of a deceased employee the Certificate of Death should be forwarded by the claimant.

The Commissioner of Labour will investigate the claim and if he is satisfied as to the

identity of the claimant and that he is entitled to the payment of the benefits, will certify the claim to the Central Bank which will pay the benefits due to the member through the Commissioner of Labour. Benefits paid out under this Act are liable to income tax if the average yearly assessable income of the member during the five years immediately preceding retirement, departure from Ceylon or death, exceeds Rs. 4,800. In such an event the sum due as income tax will be deducted from the payments due as benefits from the fund. Where a person is of unsound mind, the monies will be paid to the manager of his estate or to any other person appointed by Court, and where there is no manager or person appointed by Court, the Commissioner of Labour has the power to pay the monies to any person whom he considers proper. Where a person is dissatisfied for any reason with the determination of the Commissioner as far as his claim is concerned, he may appeal to a Tribunal and from the order of the Tribunal, an appeal on a question of law is also possible to the Supreme Court of Ceylon.

(Reproduced from the "Ceylon Labour Gazette" of November, 1958. The first part of this article appeared in the January issue of this magazine.)

CEYLON AND INDIA IN ART

(Continued from page 15)

mature mind of the Ceylonese artist does not imitate but only assimilates. Out of assimilation comes true creation.

It is this cultural link which will truly bind, for ever, the destinies of India and Ceylon. It is the artist who will forge new and strong links in this chain. I hope that Sri

Palee will continue to be a symbol of the cultural affinity between our two countries and that its past pupils will provide an inspiration to the present-day students and other artists in the country, while at the same time, setting an example for them all to emulate.

Modernisation of Railways

S. A. JOSEPH, *Press Officer*

THE Ceylon Government Railway in recent years has brought about many improvements to effect a higher standard of service in all directions and in particular to provide for the greater comfort and convenience of class-three passengers.

The Railway is now gearing itself to give the suburban traveller his due. The main proposals under the scheme to improve the suburban services are :

1. Purchase of 45 diesel power coaches of approximately 750 h.p.
2. The construction in Ceylon of trailer cars.
3. Installation of colour light signalling (centralized traffic control) within a 20-mile radius from Colombo.

Diesel Coaches

THE first three of the 15 diesel coaches ordered under the first contract have now arrived and are operating on the suburban routes. Twelve more will arrive before the end of June. Orders for 25 more have already been placed and the coaches are expected to be delivered by the manufacturers during the second half of this year. Meanwhile, the Government has decided that an application should be made to the Development Loan Fund for a Line of credit of 750,000 dollars to finance the purchase of five more diesel coaches to complete the Railway's program for the purchase of 45 diesel power coaches for the suburban rail services. These coaches are classless and contain all the modern amenities life fans, cushion seats, &c.

The Railway is also planning to put more modern passenger coaches on all its services. The Japanese Government has gifted two sample bogeys to the Railway. These bogeys were designed on the lines recommended by a Japanese expert who visited Ceylon recently to study the special needs of train

travellers here. If they are found satisfactory, orders will be placed for more bogeys of this type.

The construction of 135 trailer cars are now nearing completion. Sixty of these are already in service. The trailer cars will be used in conjunction with diesel power coaches and "driving trailer cars" as small train units. These small train units running at frequent intervals will take the place of bigger and slower trains operating at longer intervals.

Colour Lighting

THE installation of colour light signalling between Veyangoda and Panadura will start soon. The Railway recently called for tenders for this project and awarded the tender to Messrs. L. M. Ericsson, a Swedish firm with considerable experience in this type of work. The firm will start delivering the materials in three months time.

The installation will be carried out under the direct supervision of two railway engineers who are at present undergoing training in the U. S.

Colour light signalling is automatic and will replace the present manual system. It will permit (1) speeding up of traffic which results in more effective use of equipment, (2) a very substantial increase in the frequency of services on existing trackage over that possible with the existing signalling system, (3) greater safety, the signals being automatic.

The trains assure their own safety. They do this by means of electrical circuits automatically operated by the presence of engine or car wheels on the tracks which will cause signal lights to warn other trains approaching from either direction that there is a train already on the track.

Faster Services

MAJOR improvements are also being carried out at present throughout the entire railway system for providing more frequent and faster services.

The work includes the construction of additional tracks and sidings, improved signalling and the re-alignment of the sharper curves in order to eliminate speed restrictions on the flat sections.

The full length of the light railway to Batticaloa and Trincomalee on the east coast is being re-laid with heavy section 80 lb. rails at an estimated cost of Rs. 24,000,000. Improvements are also being carried out without interruption to tracks on the Coast Line with new rails, sleepers and extra stone ballast to suit faster and heavier traffic. A heavy programme of work in bridge replacement spread over a period of five years is also in progress.

Improvements to Stations

STATIONS on the system are being remodelled to relieve congestion and permits the movement of longer trains. One of the more important projects to be taken in hand in the near future is a re-modelled station in Colombo for long distance traffic.

The shortage of carriages and wagons has been a pressing problem for the C. G. R. in recent years. A proposal is now under consideration by the Ministry of Transport and Works designed to find an early solution to the problem in order to meet the accelerated demand by an expanding industry and growing population for the increased use of the railway system.

Under the proposed scheme the rolling stock of the railway is to be increased by 70 additional coaches and 1,000 wagons over a period of six years commencing this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 25,690,000.

The present strength of the rolling stock is 831 carriages and 3,308 wagons as against

an estimated requirement of 980 carriages and 4,630 wagons.

There has been a steady increase in the number of passengers and tonnage of goods carried in the last few years. The present rolling stock is quite inadequate to meet current requirements.

It is perhaps not generally known that due to the lack of an adequate number of godowns and warehouses in the provinces to receive stocks of goods distributed under the control schemes a number of goods wagons are in continuous use for the transport of foodstuffs to the outstations at frequent intervals. The complex operation of the quick turn-about of the limited number of carriages to meet the needs of passenger traffic at peak hours is a noteworthy achievement of the Railway but from the standpoint of Government revenue and the convenience of passengers the results achieved have been disappointing.

It is, therefore, felt that the proposed increased to the rolling stock and the new range of mechanical improvements like colour light signalling to be introduced shortly will affect all railway operations beneficially.

New Lines

THE Government has also decided to re-open the railway to Puttalam. The re-opening of this railway which has been closed for 15 years will help to develop the Puttalam area. The Government has already taken the first step in this direction by finalising plans to open a cement factory there. It is estimated that the factory will be able to produce 60,000 tons of cement a year. The Ministry of Lands and Land Development also plans to open up 20,000 acres of middle class colonization schemes only 12 miles from Puttalam.

Preliminary work in connection with the re-opening of the railway like the strengthening of bridges, earthwork, &c., has already begun. The laying of the track from Bangadeniya to Puttalam will begin as soon as the 80,000 sleepers ordered from abroad arrive.

Bandung Anniversary

CEYLON celebrated the Fourth Anniversary of Bandung on April 18. The Prime Minister Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, in a special message broadcast over Radio Ceylon on the occasion said: "Celebrations are being held to commemorate the 4th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference. It is only right and proper for us to participate as fully as possible in these celebrations. Not only was Ceylon, as one of the Colombo Powers, one of the sponsors of the Bandung Conference, but that Conference was one of great importance to the Afro Asian countries in particular and to the world in general.

"It demonstrated a fundamental community of interest in many important matters between the countries of Asia and Africa. Politically it demonstrated the opposition of these countries to colonialism and imperialism, as many of these countries had recently regained their freedom, while others were still struggling to achieve independence. Economically it emphasized the common needs of countries which were poor and under-developed. Internationally it propounded principles of relations between nations calculated to secure friendly relations between countries holding different ideologies and thus paved the way to peace and understanding between peoples in the present troubled era of human civilization.

"The Afro-Asian countries may well be proud of the achievement of the Bandung Conference and may well celebrate its anniversary as a landmark in their own history as well as that of the world."

Republic of Indonesia in Ceylon, I warmly welcome this opportunity to participate in the commemoration through Radio Ceylon on the 18th of April, the Anniversary of the Asian-African Conference.

"Indeed it has already been proved that the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 1955 was a historic event not only for the participating countries of Asia and Africa but also for the entire world in general.

"In commemorating this historic day, it is only fitting that we should all be conscious that the Bandung Spirit as embodied in Dasasila cannot flourish unceasingly unless all of us from the Asian-African group strive seriously to nourish it, especially among our nations and peoples.

"We should realize that all kinds of difficulties which have now arisen among several countries in our group have by themselves weakened our unity and for that reason have weakened the authority of the Bandung Spirit.

"On the other hand, we ought to rejoice that this year the Government of Ceylon has taken the initiative to hold an Asian Economic Conference as the logical continuation of the Bandung Conference.

"May this important conference be held in an atmosphere of brotherliness and mutual understanding as in the Bandung Conference so that results can be achieved, which are profitable and beneficial for all our countries and peoples."

India

THE Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon, Shri Y. D. Gundevia said: "Post-war Asia is in the process of tremendous revolutionary change. Asia has got out of its rut,

Indonesia

THE Minister for Indonesia in Ceylon, Dr. R. M. M. Soerianata Djoemena, in a message said: "As the representative of the

"The 29-nation Afro-Asian Conference sponsored by the five Colombo Power countries—Burma, Ceylon, Pakistan, Indonesia and India—which met on April 18, 1955, in Bandung, was a focal point in this stirrings of two continents. The historic Joint Communiqué issued at the end of the Conference on April 24, 1955, embodying unanimous agreements on cultural co-operation, the problems of dependent peoples, human rights and self-determination and a ten-point declaration for the promotion of world peace and co-operation, symbolized the yearnings of the majority of the world population, the peoples of Asia and Africa, for their liberation from physical, spiritual and intellectual bonds. It also expressed, in no uncertain terms, the clear determination of these two continents for a fuller life to fight against the forces which stunted their development in the past.

"Let us today re-dedicate ourselves to uphold the Bandung Principles, which incorporate the aspirations of the vast mass of the peoples of the world, and to work jointly and fraternally for a brighter future and a better and peaceful world."

Pakistan

MR. Mirza Hamid Hussain, High Commissioner for Pakistan in Ceylon said: "We in Pakistan share with our Afro-Asian family a feeling of gratefulness and rejoicing on this day, which marks the formal return of the people of Asia and Africa to the centre of the world stage. When twenty-nine countries comprising three-fourths of the world's population met in Bandung the world knew that Asia and Africa could now speak in their own right. The world also knew that history had turned a corner. And I have no doubt that in the years to come 18th April will rank as one of the important Asian events and will be celebrated as such.

"We in Pakistan are specially happy that Bandung started with goodwill for all and

malice towards none. We firmly believe that continued recriminations against past oppression and colonialism is fruitless and would not be in line with our traditions. Having secured our freedom to think and act independently, we should now aim to secure all possible greatness for our countries and all possible happiness for the world, on the positive basis of constructive ideologies and the profound philosophies of life which our region gave to the world.

"New hopes are rising and although a lot of effort, persistence and hard toil will still be required, our march towards new horizons has already begun. In an effort towards a better future we should always remember that comprising an overwhelming majority of the world's population as we do, the lead we give should always be morally right and just."

Burma

THE Burmese Minister in Ceylon, Dr. Htin Aung, said: "In the history of the modern world, the first great Asian Conference was the one held at New Delhi under the patronage of Mahatma Gandhi of immortal memory and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Asians and their brothers, the Africans, were then nearing their triumph against Colonial rule, and the mood of the Conference was that of a militant nationalism.

"The Bandung Conference, held some eight years later in 1955, was a logical follow-up of the 1947 Asian Conference, but the mood and the circumstances were different. The Conference was conceived and planned by five newly-independent countries namely, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia. The Asians and the Africans were then assured of their places in the world, and their nationalism was now tolerant and benevolent and they had come to realize that the greatest contribution they could

make to the peace of the world and the happiness of mankind, was to unite and work for understanding, sympathy and harmony among not only Asians and Africans but among all nations of the world. The results of the Bandung Conference have been far-reaching, and the five principles of co-existence emphasised at the great conference will serve as a guiding star to the ship of humanity lost in the turbulent sea of suspicion and fear."

China

MR. Chang Tsan-ming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Ceylon, said in his broadcast message: "It is already four years since the Bandung Conference was convened in April 1955. The past four years have fully proved the great significance of the Bandung Conference. The banner of anti-colonialism and striving for national independence which was upheld by the Bandung Conference has encouraged all the oppressed nations and people in Asia, Africa and throughout the world to rise and launch the struggles for anti-colonialism. During this period, many countries have gained their independence while many others are fighting heroically and they are also bound to achieve victory. The Ten Principles, advocated by the Conference, of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence is more and more deeply rooted in people's hearts. Facts have shown that these principles are the basic criterion for maintaining normal international relations and they show the only correct way to develop the friendship between nations.

"The Government of the People's Republic of China was an active participant in the Bandung Conference. Before that, our Government had already advocated the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence

jointly with her friendly neighbouring countries like India and Burma. During the Bandung Conference the Chinese Government Delegation, led by Premier Chou En-lai, made, together with other participating countries, prominent contributions to the success of the Conference. After the Conference, the Government and people of our country have all along actively supported the Bandung Resolutions. Hence, the People's Republic of China is a faithful pursuer and supporter of the Ten Principles of the Bandung Conference. Based on these Principles, she has strengthened the friendly solidarity with the Asian and African countries, developed the relations among nations and supported all righteous struggles against colonialism.

"The Ceylon Government headed by Mr. Bandaranaike has all the time supported the principles of the Bandung Conference Resolutions, and has made great contributions to friendship, co-operation and peaceful co-existence among Asian and African countries. The Chinese people are in high admiration of this.

"We firmly believe that the spirit of the Bandung Conference will further develop and flourish, the cause of the Asian-African people struggling for national independence will achieve greater victory, the friendship and solidarity among the Asian and African countries and peoples will be further promoted and consolidated, and the wishes for peace, independence and friendship will be realized not only in Asia and Africa but in the whole world.

Japan

THE Japanese Ambassador in Ceylon, Mr. Matsui, in his message said: "Since the first Asia-African Conference was held at Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955, on the initial suggestion of His Excellency the then Indonesian Prime Minister, Dr. Sastroamidjojo,

four years have elapsed. Besides various important and significant outcomes of the Conference such as the so-called "Ten Principles of Peace", and so on. I would like to specifically mention that it was the first international conference ever held in history where the countries of only Asia and Africa were represented by their very top-level personnel, and, in that respect, it was really one of epoch making significance. I may also mention that Ceylon should be proud that the Conference was initiated at the first Colombo Conference held in April, 1954, where Prime Ministers of the five countries, that is Ceylon, Burma, India, Indonesia and Pakistan, took part.

"When we look back upon the past four years since the holding of the Conference, it is a matter of great regret that the supreme purpose of the Conference to maintain international peace and security has not been attained yet, and that there still exists international tensions in various quarters. However, these facts themselves, I wish to point out, force us to abide by the spirit and principles of the Conference more vigorously and sincerely. On the other hand, I have to congratulate you for the fact that international co-operation in the field of economic, technology, and culture has made a slow but very steady progress.

"As for Japan, she is firmly determined, as clarified by her chief delegate to that Conference. Mr. Takasaki, always to adhere to the principle of peace, observe the spirit of the United Nations Charter and thereby contribute actively towards world peace by co-operating with her friendly nations in the region of Asia and Africa. This, I hope is fully understood by the people of Ceylon through the politics and attitudes taken by Japan on various occasions in the past sessions of the General Assembly or the Security Council of the United Nations.

"Finally, I would like to make it clear to the people of Ceylon that my country will never fail to co-operate with your country

as much as possible for the development of your industries. I myself, strongly desire to contribute towards establishing the closer relations of co-operation between Ceylon and Japan in the future and strengthening the existing friendly relations between the two countries."

United Arab Republic

THE Minister in Ceylon of the United Arab Republic, Fouad Naguib, said: "Today, we celebrate the 4th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference, which is considered the birth of freedom, solidarity and independence for the Afro-Asian nations, which were for many centuries subject to imperialism and colonialism.

"On such an occasion, our common memories relate back to the distant past when the East was the centre of civilization, which spread over the world. It is with pride, that we look upon our past civilization which was the basis of the 20th century civilization. We are here today, free from imperialism and colonialism, and striving to continue that civilization, without losing our liberty, which we won by human sacrifice, struggle, difficulty and with tears.

"On this occasion I am proud to thank Ceylon which took the opportunity of convening the Colombo Conference as a preliminary to the Bandung Conference which was attended by representatives of 29 countries comprising 3/4ths of the world's population.

"The Bandung Conference is not a mere phenomenon, but a natural outcome of the ancient ties between the Afro-Asian nations in the political, economic, and social fields. These ties were largely responsible for the success of the talks, and marked a triumph for the solidarity, friendship, good neighbourliness and common bonds among the Bandung countries.

"The spirit of solidarity and mutual understanding which was largely responsible for the success of the Bandung Conference, stood its test during the aggression of Port Said in October 1956, and I am glad to state that the Afro-Asian nations rallied together in whole-hearted support against the aggressors.

"Further the policy of non-alignment, co-existence and avoidance of war enunciated by Mr. Bandaranaike and President Nasser are also a significant outcome of the Bandung Talks.

"Finally as the representative of the U. A. R. I state that we, Afro-Asian nations, shall stand together, in support of freedom independence, equality of all nations. We shall jointly work for the solution of world problems by peaceful means, and work together for the equality of races, and the strict adherence to the principles of Pancha Sila. We denounce war and aggression, and dedicate ourselves for the maintenance of International Peace.

SURVEY OF CEYLON SOILS

THE survey of Ceylon soils, which will form the basis of agricultural planning, has been initiated by the Department of Agriculture.

It is proposed to establish soil groups, families, series and types for the entire Island, and map them with the aid of aerial photographs. A detailed soil map of this nature will assist in land development planning, selection of land for economic crops, recommendation of management practices, and efficient fertilizer use.

The survey of the rice soils of Ceylon, initiated with a view to mapping soils on the basis of factors that limit productivity, is being continued with greater energy. Eleven thousand acres of rice soils in Hewagam Korale have been surveyed and mapped in detail on aerial photographs. A provisional soil map has been prepared.

A similar soil survey of the Jaffna peninsula has already commenced.



The Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, talking to Mr. Coleman Harwell (left) Editor of the Nashville Tennessean, and Mr. Kenneth Olson, Professor of Journalism at the North-Western University when they visited the P. M. at his residence in Rosmead Place. The two journalists were in Ceylon for a week and delivered lectures and had discussions with local pressmen under the auspices of the Press Association of Ceylon

Foreign Affairs

THE Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, told the House of Representatives last night that he could not resist the conclusion that the Tibetan affair must be looked upon fundamentally as an internal question of China.

The Premier made this observation in the course of a statement he made in response to a question raised on the adjournment motion by the Leader of the Opposition whether he would make such a statement.

Mr. Bandaranaike said that he delayed making a statement for no other reason than that it was very difficult to obtain anything

approaching a clear picture of what had happened. With regard to Tibet, material was not easily available to them. It was necessary to understand the entire problem, or as much of it as would be desirable before he, as Minister of Defence and External Affairs and Prime Minister of Ceylon, was entitled to make a statement.

He said that the first point was to have fairly in one's own mind the precise status of Tibet vis-a-vis China. It would appear that for some centuries now, from about the year 1700, China had asserted and had exercised its suzerainty over Tibet. But



The Japanese Ambassador in Ceylon, His Excellency Mr. Akira Matsui, and Mrs. Matsui, welcoming the Governor-General of Ceylon, His Excellency Sir Oliver Goonetilleke to the party held in Colombo to celebrate the birthday of the Emperor of Japan

there was no question at all that Tibet had been looked upon as a part of China.

In the British period this suzerainty, which China had over Tibet, had been

admitted. It had been admitted by the British and also after India became independent, the Indian Government had recognised and admitted China's suzerainty over Tibet.

Simla Conference

THE Prime Minister said that in 1914 there was a conference at Simla between British India and China in respect of Tibet. Those discussions had the following results. Firstly an area known as Outer Tibet was recognised, which was granted autonomous status under Chinese suzerainty. Secondly an Inner Tibet was formed, roughly comprising the Chando area in the east, inhabited by the nomadic war-like Kambos.

He said that Outer Tibet had a certain autonomous status under the Chinese Government. In Inner Tibet the Chinese had the right of government but the Dalai Lama exercised and enjoyed a certain measure of spiritual jurisdiction. Although Chaing Kai-shek did not sign the convention

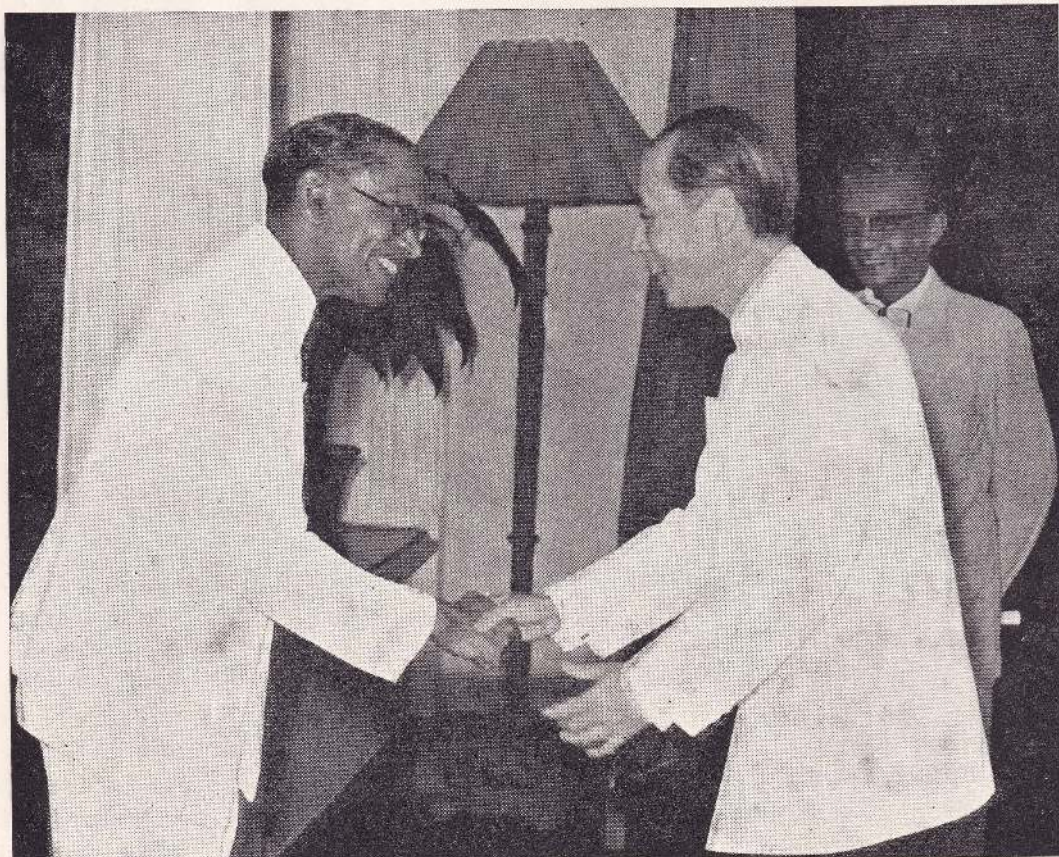
drawn up at the Simla Conference, he would appear to have accepted the principle of that position.

He said that the next important period was 1949-50, when the Chiang Kai-shek regime was crumbling and the People's Republic of China was being established. In July 1949 the representative of Chiang Kai-shek at Lhasa was expelled by the Dalai Lama in order that he should not cause, apparently, any displeasure to the new Government that was being established in China.

The Agreement of 1951

IN 1951 the People's Government of China and the Tibetan Government led by the Dalai Lama, the Panchan Lama and other dignitaries of the Tibetan Government, after discussion, came to an agreement. He had

The Ceylon Premier being greeted by the Japanese Ambassador at the party held in Colombo recently to celebrate the birthday of the Emperor of Japan





The United Nations Seminar on Human Rights was held at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, from May 4th to 15th, 1959. Picture shows the Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Hon. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, opening the Conference

got this document from the Chinese Ambassador in Ceylon.

He said that Article 1 of this Agreement stated that the Tibetan people should unite and drive out the imperialist forces from Tibet. It further stated that the Tibetan people should return to the big family of the motherland, the People's Republic of China.

Article 2 stated that the local Government of Tibet should actively assist the People's Liberation Army to enter Tibet and consolidate the national defence.

Article 8 stated that Tibetan troops should be reorganised by stages into the People's Liberation Army and become a part of the national defence forces of the People's Republic of China.

Article 14 stated that the Central Government at Peking should conduct the handling of all external affairs of the area of Tibet. There would be peaceful co-existence with neighbouring countries and establishment and development of fair commercial and trading relations with them on the basis of equality.

There was the further provision under that article for the Chinese Government to set up a military and administrative committee and Military Area Headquarters in Tibet in order to ensure the implementation of that agreement.

The Prime Minister said that in 1956 the Chinese Government set up what was known as a preparatory committee for the autonomous region of Tibet. That body was designed to develop Tibet economically, politically and culturally. The chairman of this committee was the Dalai Lama and the Vice-Chairman was Panchan Lama, and it contained both Chinese and Tibetan personnel.

Referring to the revolt that broke out, he said that they did not know yet, even from the statement made by the Dalai Lama recently at Tezpur as to what had happened except that the Chinese apparently did not follow the terms of that agreement. He said that the Tibetans accused the Chinese of not following the spirit or letter of the agreement whilst the Chinese said that there were



The Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene, delivering the introductory address at the U. N. Seminar on Human Rights, held at Peradeniya recently

vested interests there. Those interests were being eroded naturally by steps taken to modernise the State in various ways, culturally, industrially, etc. That had caused those elements with promptings from outside to start off a revolt against the existing situation.

The Premier said that those were the divergent stories on which he was not capable of passing any judgment. He just did not know what exactly had happened there.

An Internal Affair

HE said that it was a domestic affair fundamentally in the sense that it was an internal affair of China. It was difficult to resist that conclusion and that was the reason why

the Prime Minister of India had instructed his Permanent Representative in the United Nations to say that India had accepted the position that it was an internal affair of China.

It would appear, at least on those documents that the position adopted by the Prime Minister of India, who knew all those facts much more intimately than they did, was not unjustified, namely that it was in fact an internal affair of China.

Mr. Bandaranaike said that naturally, they in this country as well as in India and other countries, particularly those who were Buddhists, had viewed with perturbation the fact that a country, which was looked upon as one devoted to the spiritual life in a sense that no other nation had devoted itself

through the centuries, should find itself in that position.

Satisfactory Solution

HE said that it was their hope that some satisfactory solution of that problem would be found whereby, with the continuance of the suzerainty of China over Tibet, the Tibetans would be allowed to follow reasonably their own way of life.

Even a very pious Buddhist, the ex-Prime Minister of Burma, U Nu, had expressed in a statement at New York that there was no question of China's suzerainty over Tibet.

Mr. Bandaranaike said that he would be quite ready on behalf of the Government and people of Ceylon to lend whatever good offices they could in every way to bring about a satisfactory settlement of that problem and thereby contribute to the greater understanding of the peoples of the world, particularly those in Asia.

Air Agreement with China

THE Air Transport Bi-lateral Agreement which has been concluded between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Ceylon marks an important stage in the development of Civil Aviation in this country.

Hitherto Air Ceylon has looked westwards mainly for the development of its International airlines. With the signing of this Agreement, greater attention will be paid to the development of Ceylon's Eastern routes, particularly to those countries with which she has close economic and cultural ties.

In opening the negotiations in China the Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, pointed out that there had been close economic and cultural relations between the two countries for many centuries. He also referred to the travels of the Buddhist monk Fa-Hien who came to Ceylon in the 4th century A. D. He pointed out that at that time Fa-Hien's journey took over 6 years and with the signing of the Agreement

and with the inauguration of an Air Transport service, China and Ceylon would possibly be within reach of each other in under 18 hours.

Air Ceylon International hopes to start this service as soon as possible. Certain preliminary technical arrangements along the route have first to be attended to. The Chinese Government under the terms of the Agreement have stated that they will provide every possible facility for the inauguration of the new air service. Air Ceylon anticipates in the future to have two services to the West and two services to the East. One service to the East will terminate at Singapore and the other will terminate at Canton and will possibly be routed through Rangoon.

Buddhist Mission to Travellers

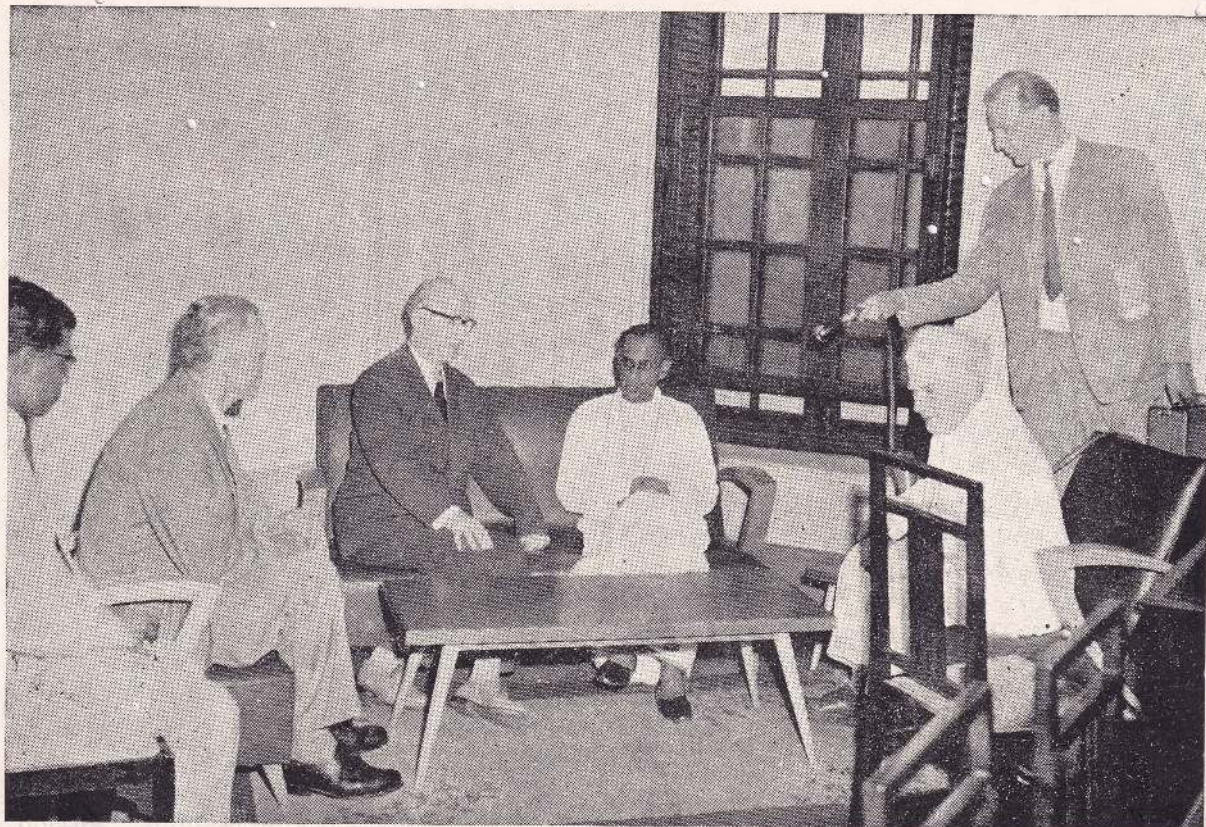
THE Buddhist Mission to Sea and Air Travellers was inaugurated recently at the premises of the Varaya Bauddha Bala Mandalaya in Jayanti Road, Fort.

The Minister of Nationalized Services and Road Transport Mr. C. Wijesinghe, who ceremonially opened the Buddhist Mission Bureau said that Ceylon could play an important role in spreading the message of the Buddha the world over by providing all the necessary literature and bhikkus for missions abroad. In his ministerial capacity he promised all assistance to the Bureau.

Balangoda Ananda Maitriya Nayke Thero said that it was necessary that Buddhist literature be distributed to passengers and that facilities should be provided for bhikkus to go on board ships.

Madihe Pannasiha Maha Nayake Thero said that the Bureau would enable tourists to get first-hand information of places of Buddhist interest to visit.

The main aim of the Buddhist Mission Bureau is to satisfy the interest in Buddhism of foreign travellers passing through or visiting Ceylon. The Bureau will be a centre for the distribution of Buddhist literature to air and sea travellers. There will also be a both at the Passenger Jetty for the distribution of Buddhist literature.



The East German Parliamentary delegation which visited Ceylon recently seen with the Ceylon Premier at his office in the House of Representatives

Delegation from E. Germany

A Parliamentary delegation from the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) arrived in Ceylon on April 18. The delegation which was led by the President of the People's Chamber, Mr. Johannes Dieckmann, consisted of fourteen parliamentarians representing all the political parties in the People's Chamber. During their stay in Ceylon, they met the Prime Minister and members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Ceylon's New Minister in Italy

THE Government of Ceylon has, with the concurrence of the Government of Italy, decided to appoint Sir Arthur Godwin Ranasingha, Kt., C.M.G., C.B.E., as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ceylon to Italy in succession to His Excellency Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle.

Minister Received by the Japanese Emperor

THE Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Jayaweera Kuruppu, in a message to the Prime Minister, has stated that both he and Ceylon's Ambassador in Japan were received in audience by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan during his recent visit to Japan. He has made representations to the Emperor and Emperess on behalf of the Government and people of Ceylon.

The Minister has received a gift of £5,000 from the National Council for Asian Good Neighbourhood, for the Cultural Affairs Ministry for work in regard to the Buddhist Encyclopædia.

He has also received a gift of £1,300 from the Buddhist Federation of Japan to meet expenses towards the construction of Sari-putta Moggallana Chaitiya.