

CEYLON *Today*

The Prime Minister on
Human Rights

Why Parliament was
Prorogued

The Significance of Poson
WILLIAM PEIRIS

Nationalised Services &
Road Transport

Wesak Pageant

Southern Asian Economic
Conference Prelimi-
nary Meeting

Three New Bilateral
Air Agreements Signed

Foreign Affairs



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The Prime Minister on Human Rights

THE United Nations Human Rights Commission held a Seminar on "Judicial and other Remedies against the Illegal Exercise or Abuse of Administrative Authority" at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, from 4th to 15th May, 1959. (See Ceylon Today, May issue). The Seminar was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. We give below the text of the speech he made on the occasion.

I very much appreciate the privilege and the honour, as Prime Minister of Ceylon, of declaring open this Seminar where you, gathered here from 15 countries of Asia, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand, will be discussing a subject of some considerable importance. May I at the outset offer you all a most cordial welcome to Ceylon. I hope you do not find it too warm here, but if you do find the climate warm, believe me that our welcome to you is equally warm. This might set off any discomfort caused by the heat of our climate! We welcome you most cordially here. I extend that welcome to you on behalf of the people and the Government of Ceylon.

I am also most pleased that this Seminar in the University of Ceylon at Peradeniya is meeting under the Chairmanship of a distinguished Ceylonese, His Excellency

Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardena, our Ambassador at Washington, who has won laurels in the many spheres of activity to which he has devoted his attention—as a public man and a politician in Ceylon, as an Ambassador abroad, the representative for some years of Ceylon at the United Nations. It is a great pleasure to us here that the Commission on Human Rights has considered Mr. Gunawardena as one worthy of holding the post of the Chairman for two years now and it is one of peculiar pleasure to us that this Seminar should be meeting here in Ceylon under his Chairmanship.

I hope you will all have a pleasant time in our country and that your deliberations here will prove fruitful as well as useful to yourselves and the world in general. You are meeting here, in the premises of the University of Ceylon, amidst these very pleasant surroundings. You are meeting in the district of Kandy, which was the last stronghold of our freedom before we succumbed to the onrush of colonial rule well nigh 400 years ago. You are meeting, therefore, amidst the memories of the past and hopes for the future. You are meeting amidst the dust of kinds and the sunrise of the new era for us all. I trust, therefore, that the environment and the atmosphere of

this place will contribute perhaps a little towards helping you in your deliberations on this important subject which I trust will produce at least an indication to many countries of the world, something which will be of value in promoting human rights.

Commission's Useful Work

THIS Commission on Human Rights was established in 1946 under the provisions of the Charter, the general objects of the Charter as set out in Article I, and the provision in Article 68 which enabled the Economic and Social Council to set up a Commission of this type for the promotion of human rights. Since then, although your record of work has not been particularly spectacular, no one can deny its essential value.

The Declaration of Human Rights, which was issued by you and through the Economic and Social Council and presented and accepted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, sets out in general terms, as indeed such a document must, human rights in two well-defined spheres. Civil and political rights on the one hand, economic, social and cultural rights on the other. Since then you have done a considerable amount of work. You have issued, and issue annually, a year-book which contains a great deal of, I observe, valuable material. Many countries have reported to you the progress they have made in the field that is your own and you have also held a number of useful Seminars. In 1947 I notice in Thailand regarding the Rights of Women; in 1948 in the Philippines regarding the protection of the Rights in the Administration of Criminal Law Procedure. You are now holding this Seminar here on an equally, perhaps a more important subject, the subject of judicial and other remedies that may be available to an individual in the event of excessive use or misuse or abuse of the administrative powers vested in administrative officers. It is a subject of considerable importance particularly today and I crave your indulgence if I may express a few words on this subject in a general manner.

In the first place I cannot help being struck by the fact that with regard to a good many aspirations of mankind through the ages, ideals such as freedom, liberty, the pursuit of truth and so on, those noble ideals for which mankind has striven through its long history, that we must remember that these concepts themselves are, to a great extent, relative concepts. I am not denying that there may be certain absolute values in the Universe. There undoubtedly are. But we have to bear in mind when we use these phrases, such as liberty, freedom and so on, that they themselves, to a great extent, are relative terms. Justice itself, I cannot help thinking, is very often a relative term. Liberty, freedom, justice have certain aspects of relativity. They are relative to the systems under which they work. They are relative to the age and the time and state of society in which these concepts are applied. The concept itself, therefore, does not, in a fundamental sense, change. That is a very important factor to bear in mind; that these phrases themselves have a certain aspect of relativity. They are not absolute in that way. It is only by an understanding of that fact that we can move, more satisfactorily and effectively, towards the achievement of these ideals.

The Individual and the State

THE question of human rights involves the question of the liberty and freedom, I take it, of the individual in two ways—liberty of the individual vis-a-vis the State and the liberty of the individual vis-a-vis his fellow individual in the State. Those, presumably, are the two aspects of human rights. Now, these individual rights and freedoms are relative terms today. Some people claim that theirs is the real democracy while others claim that it is no democracy at all. However, the democratic idea, as many of us conceive it in the so-called democratic countries, I think means this—freedom from the point of view of human rights of the individual, and liberty.

It consists of individual freedoms. You know the classic freedoms of democracy. They have been defined in the old textbooks. Freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and speech, freedom from arbitrary arrest, and so on. Inherent in the idea of individual freedom there was something that went beyond personal freedom. There are certain collective freedoms which I think were defined in comparatively recent times in the so-called Atlantic Charter which was worked out between the late Mr. Franklin Roosevelt and the then Mr. Winston Churchill. Freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom from ignorance, freedom to choose the form of government a people want and so on. Therefore, I think you can define the democratic freedoms from the point of view of your democracy ; and many of us understand that term as an agglomeration of individual and collective freedoms.

If you look at the achievement of human rights from that angle of view, then, you have to consider what are these fundamental human rights that you are going to urge people to observe. As I said, this idea is also relative, relative to the form of government that may exist in a country where human rights as conceived between a state of society or one form of government may differ sometimes, even fundamentally, from the conception of human rights as conceived by another form of government, another state of society.

Today, in the world we have various types of governments, governments of a somewhat totalitarian nature of the left, of the right, with various types of democratic governments in between; capitalist democracy, liberal democracy, social democracy and so on, in each of which, quite *bona fide*, you may get the differing conceptions of human rights. Now, to thrash out therefore one system of human rights all that can be done obviously is to lay down certain general principles; the application may differ to a very great extent from country to country, people to people, and

differ quite *bona fide*. Apparently an effort has been made by the Commission on Human Rights in their declaration of human rights to define these rights in as general terms as possible. I do not wonder that when you proceed further to draw up certain conventions on the civil and political rights embodying the general declaration of human rights and another convention on the economic and social rights, that there has been a delay in the United Nations in securing fairly general agreement to such conventions. It is no matter of surprise at all that you are still pursuing it because it is well worth pursuing and I sincerely hope that something of a fairly general agreement can be reached on those conventions that are still under consideration by the United Nations and probably at your own Commission.

Growth of Administrative Power

TODAY, you are engaged in one aspect of human rights. What is that? Judicial as well as other remedies that can be worked out for misuse or abuse of administrative powers. Now, there, the first point that we have to recognise and realise is this, that, in the growing complication of the administration of a modern state, there is a tendency for an increase of powers, sometimes even of a judicial nature, vested in the administration, in administrative officers.

A distinguished British lawyer of the old school drew attention to this tendency in a book he wrote not long ago entitled "The New Despotism". He drew attention to a certain shrinkage of the position of the courts of law by this very tendency to which I have drawn attention. Well, it is useful for us to bear in mind the fears of those who may feel that there is an undue encroachment by way of exercise of discretionary powers by administrative officers in various fields of administration. The first thing that occurs to me about it is the recognition, for efficient and effective government, of a growth of this

type of administrative power. You just cannot prevent it. In a hundred and one ways it grows in every modern state. Now, the question arises, how are we going to preserve the rights of the individual in the event of some grievances that he has, real or imaginary may be, in dealing with the exercise of powers by administrative officers under a whole host of regulations, administrative regulations, by-laws passed by the executive, whose execution administrative officers are called upon to administer? That too is a problem to which you have to address your minds. Of course there are certain countries in which the rule of law, which many of our countries have adopted from the British, operates. It is a very good principle on the whole. I am referring to the legal theory "that all men are equal before the law". Not only are all men equal before the law but, except in a few very limited and closely defined exceptions, the State also is equal in the eyes of the law together with the poorest citizen. That is the rule of law. Now that is a very good principle, just adopted in many countries, but one which was defined and followed in Britain. Of course there are certain countries such as France that has particular administrative laws where there is a distinction between the State and the individual. There are other countries in which there is not a clear-cut distinction. Though the State of course has certain privileges there are certain exceptions; generally speaking the individual has certain very defined rights. That is the law generally.

Now we come to that vast body of administrative laws. In the first place you cannot do without it. No modern State can do without the provision of an increasing body of administrative regulations, by-laws administered by administrative officers. Of course there may be injustices, certain grievances may arise. How should this be dealt with? In the first place I should think that there is a certain body of administration with discretionary powers. There cannot be any appeal at all. It must

be vested in suitable, responsible administrative officers. Of course they may not be of a fundamental nature, but they must be powers that must be exercised in the day to day work of administration without being hampered at every turn by thousands and thousands of by-laws. Therefore, in the first place, there is a certain amount of discretion that must be vested in an administrative officer that it cannot be questioned by way of an appeal. We have various types of machinery to deal with grievances of the individual against the misuse or abuse of administrative authority. In the first place there are appeal boards; there are special boards of appeal set up; boards of appeal set up with the judicial courts of law. But they are appeal boards that are set up consisting of recognised lawyers and so on. Here in Ceylon appeals can be made to the executive, to the minister against an administrative act of one of his officers. There are certain cases in Ceylon where there is an appeal permitted to the minister in charge and there the matter ends.

Courts of Law

THEN, as far as courts of law are concerned, there are wide powers inherent in the various prerogative rights which we have in this country—writs and mandamus, quo warranto and so on which are available for suitable cases and heard and disposed of by the highest judiciary in the country—the Supreme Court of Ceylon. Therefore in dealing with these administrative acts, there are some that must be left to the discretion of the officers concerned of a somewhat unimportant or trivial nature. There are appeals to special boards that are set up. There are appeals by people to the executive, to the ministers concerned, against acts of the officers concerned, and there are appeals of the highest legal authority of the country, to the Supreme Court, either from the decision of some of these boards or in the exercise of the very wide natural and closely

(Continued on page 6)

Why Parliament Was Prorogued

THE Third Session of the Third Parliament was prorogued by a Gazette Notification on May 22nd. Shortly afterwards the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, met representatives of the Press at a Press Conference. At the conference, among other things he explained the reasons for proroguing Parliament in that manner. We reproduce his statement and his reply to a question raised by one of the journalists present.

I have been asked in certain quarters why in the situation that has arisen I do not recommend the dissolution of Parliament and a General Election. I refrain from doing so, not from the point of view of a narrow party interest but in the interests of the people as a whole—because I feel that a General Election now would be unfair to the people, as the issues before them will be of a most confusing and confused nature.

I consider it most desirable that certain steps already being taken and about to be taken should be completed before a General Election is held. For instance, the report of the Delimitation Commission which should be ready before very long should be given effect to before a General Election is held, to enable the people to exercise their democratic rights fairly. Further, for the same reason, there should be an opportunity to implement the Act to amend the Elections Ordinance, which has already been passed. Further, there are certain important Commissions whose reports are expected early e.g., Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Constitution, the Salaries Commission, the Wage Structure Commission, the Sasana Commission, Report of the National Planning Council, etc., which I think in the public interest should receive consideration and acceptance with whatever modifications Parliament wishes to make before a General Election is held. I am of opinion that a large majority of the people of this country as well

as a large majority of the principal political Parties share this view. I, therefore, shall carry on this Government and do this work and any other work in pursuance of our policy, which is reasonably possible for the balance comparatively short period of the life of this Parliament. I leave it to the people then to go to the polls under more democratic conditions than those that exist now, and with the issues far more clear before them to decide by their free vote what Party they would wish to govern this country for the next parliamentary period.

The question has been asked why I do not dissolve Parliament as the people voted for the M. E. P. at the last General Elections and a section of the M. E. P. has now left the Government Party. Let it be remembered that over 90 per cent. of the members elected at the last General Elections were S. L. F. P. members who were elected as such, and that in the return of a quite a number of the balance my personal support played a not inconsiderable part. I see no reason, therefore, on the grounds mentioned why the Government should resign. If I may mention an analogous example the U. N. P. when it went to the polls in 1947 consisted in fact of a coalition, the chief section of which was the Sinhala Maha Sabha. When I in 1951 left the Government with a number of Sinhala Maha Sabha members the U. N. P. Government did not consider it necessary to resign or have a dissolution. This was a stronger case for resignation or dissolution than the present one, assuming that the argument mentioned earlier is a strong one.

Now about the Prorogation of Parliament which takes effect from tonight for a period of a few weeks before Parliament meets. Originally the next meeting of Parliament was fixed for Tuesday, May 26, and it was intended to prorogue Parliament towards the end of the week. This was done as we were uncertain what would be the fate of the

Taxation Bills in the Senate and it was necessary that these bills be finally passed without any amendment. I find that there is no urgent Government business to be transacted next week. There was of course the question of Tibet, which it was hoped could be discussed at next week's parliamentary session, but it is hardly necessary for Parliament to meet next week chiefly perhaps only for a discussion on Tibet as there does not appear to be any particular urgency. When Parliament re-assembles in a few weeks' time an opportunity can be afforded for this discussion. Further important and vital budgetary discussions had got delayed and held up in the last week or so to which the Government must have full time without any delay to address its mind. In addition I require time for the re-organisation of the Government before Parliament re-assembles and also for the preparation of the programme of the Government for the coming year which may well amount to be the programme for the life of the balance life of Parliament.

To the question whether the Government would have a majority when Parliament reassembled in June the Prime Minister said :—

Even if in numbers the Government may fall a few short of absolute majority I see no

difficulty in carrying on the Government. Let it be remembered that the Government Party will be more than three times as large as the next largest party, but I feel that the Government will have an absolute majority or at the least an assurance of the support of enough members who, even if they do not join the Government Party formally, will be prepared to support the Government to assure the Government of an overall majority. Of course if there is a majority in Parliament opposed to the Government it is always open to them by casting a direct vote of No-Confidence against the Government or turning down the Budget to bring about a situation where the Government will necessarily resign. In such an eventuality, of course, it will be open to His Excellency the Governor-General either to dissolve Parliament or to ask any other person who in his opinion commands a majority in Parliament to carry on the Government. For the reasons which I stated earlier I am not taking the step of recommending a dissolution at this stage and place that responsibility in fact on Parliament. As far as my actions are concerned, they are in conformity with the interests of the majority of the people as well as in pursuance of the spirit of democracy.

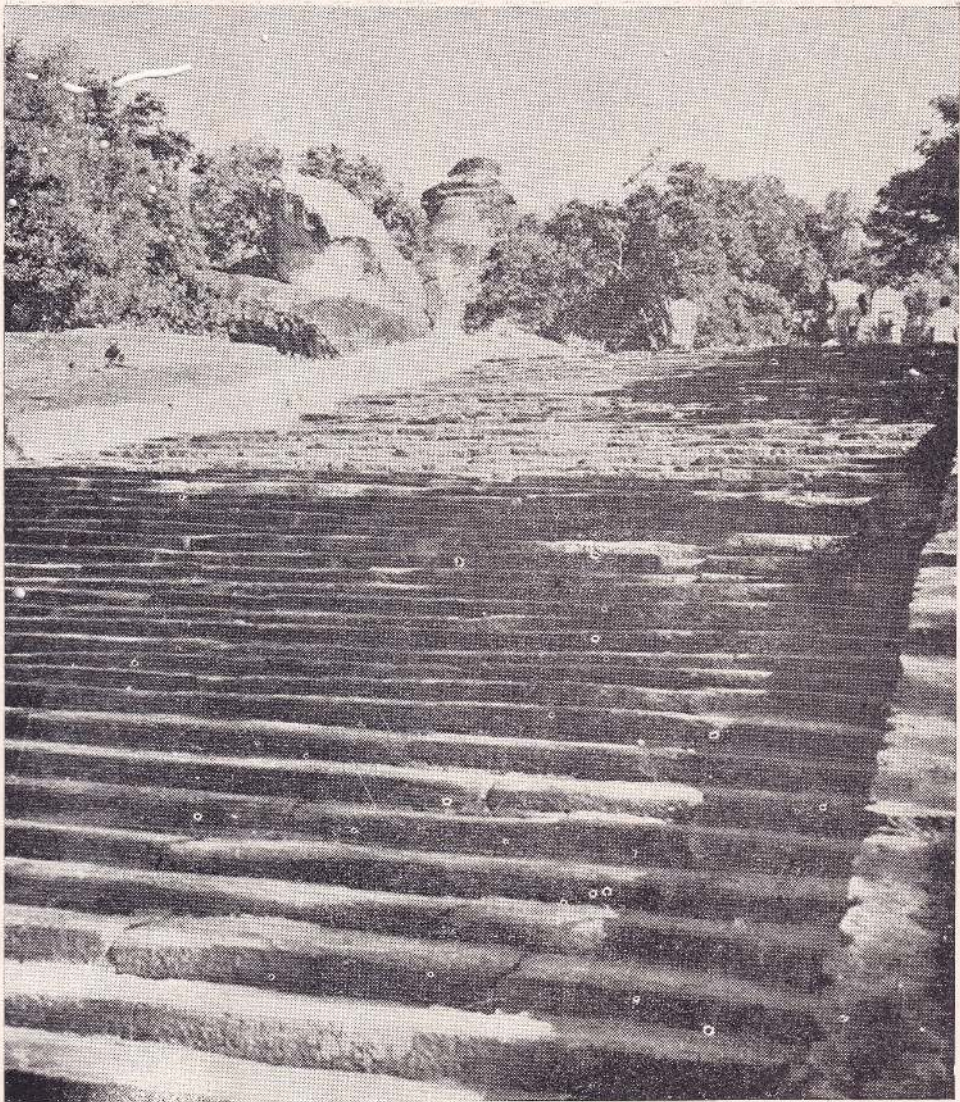
THE PRIME MINISTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

(Continued from page 4)

defined powers concerned in the writ procedure. That is the position in our country.

It is a subject of great importance and if some kind of—if not uniformity—at least a certain general common pattern can be adopted over a subject of this nature it would be helpful to a good many of our countries.

You will forgive me if I have trespassed by speaking on matters really meant for discussion. I was not going to express any particular views of my own except to express in a few words what I think would be the scope of the problems to which you will be addressing your mind.



The steps leading to Mihintale. The sacred spot associated with the arrival of Mahinda with the Dhamma

The Significance of Poson

WILLIAM PEIRIS

AN event that changed the history of Ceylon occurred on the full moon day of the month of Poson (June) in the year 307 B.C. It was the arrival of Mahinda, the apostle of Buddhism. Since then Poson has been a great festival day of the Buddhists of Ceylon.

“ And this is the chiefest conquests, in His Majesty’s opinion—the conquest by the Law of Piety ; this also is that effected by His Majesty both in his own dominions and in all the neighbouring realms as far as six hundred leagues—even to where the Greek

King named Antiochus dwells, and beyond that Antiochus to where dwell the four kings severally named Ptolemy, Antigonus, Magas and Alexander; and in the south, the kings of the Cholas and Pandyas, and of Ceylon—and likewise here in the king's dominions, among the Yonas and Kambojas, in Nabhaka of the Nabhitis, among the Bhojas and the Pitinikas, among the Andhras and Pulindas, everywhere men follow the Law of Piety as proclaimed by His Majesty."

Thus, in his thirteenth edict, the great Buddhist Emperor of India, Asoka Piyadassi, records the dispatch of his famous Buddhist missions. That they reached as far as the Greek kingdoms of Africa in those distant days was a remarkable achievement.

Mahinda's Mission

OF all these missions the one led by Asoka's own son Mahinda was the most successful.

Mahinda became a monk at the age of twenty, his royal father gifting him to the Order of Monks. It happened in this wise. On one occasion Asoka asked his spiritual adviser Moggaliputta Tissa Thera, the Arahant, if he had not done more for Buddhism than any other man.

Moggaliputta Tissa replied that Asoka's work would not be complete until he gifted a child to the Order of Monks. Persuaded thus, Asoka gifted his son Mahinda and daughter Sanghamitta to the Order of Monks and the Order of Nuns respectively.

Under Moggaliputta Tissa's guidance, Mahinda strove hard and soon attained Arahantship or sainthood. The greatest call came to him in his thirty-second year when Asoka invited him to lead the mission to Ceylon. King Tissa (later Devanampiyatissa) was the ruler of Ceylon at the time. He had already sent tokens of friendship to Asoka who had, in turn, invited him to embrace Buddhism.

Mahinda arrived in Ceylon on the full moon day of the month of Poson in 307 B.C. He was accompanied by six others, one of whom was Sumana, his nephew, the son of Sanghamitta; another was Bhanduka, his grand-nephew. On the very day of his arrival Mahinda met King Tissa on the rock of Mihintale where the latter had gone on a hunting expedition.

"In compassion for thee, O King, we have come here."

With these words Mahinda greeted Tissa. Having satisfied himself of Tissa's ability to grasp the fundamentals of Buddhism, Mahinda preached to Tissa and his followers the doctrine of the Buddha. The next day Mahinda and his fellow missionaries reached the capital city of Anuradhapura, where Tissa and his subjects gave them a wonderful reception.

Religious chroniclers state that from the day of his arrival at Anuradhapura, Mahinda was so busy with the conversion of people to the new religion that his admirers barely obtained opportunities of adequately showing him their affection and regard. Every day he preached to thousands of people, converting them to Buddhism. Many of those so converted attained high degrees of perfection.

Princess Anula, the wife of Tissa's brother, the sub-king, Mahanaga, was a notable convert. She became an ardent lay follower and subsequently entered the Order of Nuns, being the first Ceylon woman to be a nun.

Tissa placed the sylvan groves of Mahamegha and Nandana at the disposal of the missionaries, and had a number of buildings constructed on various sites in the capital for their use. The foremost of these was Mahameghavanarama which later became the celebrated Mahavihare, the home of orthodox Buddhism. Tissa donated it to Mahinda himself.

The missionaries remained at Mahameghavanarama for twenty-six days and left for Mihintale to spend the rainy season

there. Tissa himself went there ahead of them, had the jungles cleared and caves prepared for their use. A number of Vihares were also built there. Mihintale thus became the habitat of Arahants.

Request for Relics

THE zeal of the new Buddhists demanded some form of personal contact with the Buddha. Images were unknown then. A symbol like a foot-print, an unoccupied seat or a wheel (wheel of the Law), represented the Buddha. A request was then made to Asoka for relics of the Buddha and a sapling of the Bo-tree at Gaya under which Gotama attained Buddhahood. He readily granted the request, sending his daughter Sanghamitta, the Arahant, with these. The relics were enshrined in the various dagobas that were built soon after. The Bo-sapling planted in Anuradhapura before the birth of Christ has grown to be the world's oldest historical tree. Sanghamitta established the Order of Nuns in Ceylon which ceased to exist a few centuries later.

The eventful life of Tissa, who came to be known as Devanampiyatissa, the beloved of the gods, came to an end in his fortieth year. But the propagation of Buddhism did not suffer as a result of his death. His brother Uttiya, who succeeded him, was himself a zealous Buddhist and was known as Dhamma-mitta (friend of the doctrine).

Mahinda died in his eightieth year in his favourite cave at Mihintale during Uttiya's reign. The saint's body was brought to Anuradhapura where it was cremated with the greatest honours. His ashes were enshrined in Anuradhapura, but the ravages of vandals of a later day have not left a trace of the grand monument erected to his memory. However, part of the ashes remain enshrined in Ambastale dagoba in Mihintale.

The arrival of Mahinda with the message of the Buddha marked the beginning of an era of unparalleled grandeur. But the names of Mahinda and Devanampiyatissa

were almost unknown for several centuries. Then, an old manuscript, the *Mahavamsa*, made its dramatic appearance, disclosing the early history of Ceylon. There Mahinda and Tissa lived again with surprising detail. These are not mere shadows, for the monuments they raised, like themselves, have been recovered from oblivion. In their gigantic size, their beauty, their aloofness, these buildings speak of a classic age, and of heroic figures, which through them, and through the written word of the *Mahavamsa*, live again with extraordinary clarity.

Unbroken Record

OF all the ancient cities of the East, Anuradhapura alone has preserved an unbroken Buddhist record from the days of Asoka to the present. Its oldest tank was built five centuries before Christ: its oldest dagoba, Thuparama, erected in memory of Mahinda's meeting with Tissa dates back to the third century B. C. No building in India is older than it. The dates of many of these ruins, the story of their inception, the history of their construction are all known to us today, though for nearly a thousand years not only had their story vanished from the minds of men but their very existence was unknown to any except the denizens of the forests. Seventy-five years ago wild animals were moving upon the vast monuments preserved today in Anuradhapura.

Mihintale, situated eight miles from Anuradhapura, is the oldest place of pilgrimage in Ceylon—older than Sri Pada or Adam's Peak. The ancient dagobas that adorn it are monuments of Mahinda himself, and the very name of Mihintale is a memorial to him. On this hill he lived and on it he died. The base of the hill is crowded with ruins whence stone steps rise up, amid a titanic pile of rocks, to a height of about a thousand feet. To reach the main peak the pilgrim has to ascend by a stairway composed of a

(Continued on page 14)

Nationalised Services & Road Transport

THE Ministry of Nationalised Services and Road Transport was created on September 10, 1958, and the following Departments and undertakings were assigned to it:—*

*Ceylon Transport Board
Port (Cargo) Corporation
Port Commission
Department of Motor Traffic.*

This article gives a brief survey of the programme of work of these Departments and Undertakings for 1958-1959 and 1959-60.

On the nationalisation of the Island's bus services, the Government set itself the target of providing the people of this country with "nothing but the best in passenger transport".

Seventy-two loosely knit units belonging to private operators were overnight built up into a single organization under the direction of a central authority.

During the first year the Board concentrated on the establishment of garages and workshops throughout the Island. One of the major achievements of the Board was the setting up of a central workshop at Werahera, which once completed would be the Island's largest institution of its kind, capable of undertaking every kind of construction, repair and maintenance work on motor vehicles. It will also provide opportunities for the training of skilled personnel in motor and electrical engineering, body building and allied engineering trades.

Attached to the Central Workshop will be a Training School equipped and staffed with aid from the Government of the Federal Republic of West Germany. The personnel and the equipment are already in Ceylon

and within a few months the school will be in a position to take in students for training.

Nearly 1,200 new and second-hand buses were added to the fleet during 1958, while approximately three to five hundred decrepit vehicles were scrapped. With the addition of nearly 400 new buses during 1959, the task of the Board will not be that of carrying out patch work to keep a worn-out fleet of vehicles on the road, but to maintain a comparatively new fleet.

The Board has put on the roads single deck buses with large passenger capacity, hitherto not permitted on Ceylon roads. Many of these buses are capable of carrying as many as 100 passengers per bus load.

The Board has already decided to order 320 more new vehicles at a cost of approximately eight million rupees for delivery in 1959.

The Board's purchases during the first year were mainly large passenger capacity vehicles and, as a result, many of the improvements effected were on city and other routes on which it was possible to operate the larger type buses. Every effort was made to improve the suburban and rural services but the Board was hampered by the lack of the smaller types of buses suitable for road conditions in these areas.

The link services inaugurated both in the Western and Central regions have resulted in discernible improvements to the services in these parts. Existing routes have been extended and new routes opened up throughout the country.

In addition to starting a number of new express services, the Board has also

* Since this article was written, the departments follows:—the Department of Motor Traffic has and Power, and the Department of Shipping taken under this Ministry have been re-allocated as been handed over to the Ministry of Transport over from the Ministry of Commerce.

inaugurated week-end and one-day tours which have proved very popular. During the course of 1959 the Board expects to increase the number of tours on week-ends and Public Holidays.

New routes

THE Board's plans for 1959 in the field of operation include the opening up of new routes, extensions to existing roads and the introduction of linked services in other parts of the country providing through-traffic to many points without the need to change buses several times to get to a particular destination.

Many of the benefits from the Board's plans for 1959 will accrue to the rural population whose needs have been neglected in the past. It is not the Board's policy to neglect the unremunerative routes. The criterion for the operation of bus services is the need for a service and not the income from it.

The Training School for drivers and conductors at Ratmalana is equipping the Board's drivers to maintain higher standards in driving and in road courtesy. Driver Instructors are also trained at this school and posted to the provincial depots where they will conduct refresher classes for drivers attached to the depots.

While the Board has concentrated on improving the bus services, it has not overlooked the need to better the conditions of the workers in the bus transport industry. They have been granted higher scales of pay, standard overtime rates, leave privileges, travel concessions, and above all security of service.

Welfare schemes have been organized and during the course of the year it is proposed to establish welfare associations in every depot. Facilities will be provided for indoor and outdoor games.

The magnitude of the undertaking of the Ceylon Transport Board could well be imagined by a comparison of the operational figures of the CTB with those of the Bombay State Road Transport Corporation :—

	B.S.R.T.C.	C. T. B.
1. Number of routes	2,006 ..	1,161
2. Route mileage ..	50,928 ..	25,926
3. Total service mileage	6,139,140 ..	8,854,987
4. Vehicles on road ..	1,926 ..	2,384
5. Vehicle utilisation (in miles)	108.2	125.7
6. Total revenue (in rupees)	9,568,235 ..	8,432,201
7. Earnings per bus mile (in cents)	155.86 ..	95.23
8. Percentage load factor	74.92 ..	55.58
9. Total number of passengers carried	15,500,390 ..	40,682,888
10. Average distance travelled per passenger (in miles)	11.83 ..	5.66
11. Earnings per passenger (in cents)	61.73 ..	20.73
12. Accidents per lakh of miles	1.38 ..	2.95

Additional data deduced from above :

13. Fare per mile ..	5.22 ..	3.66
14. Average capacity of vehicles	39.85 ..	46.81
15. Passenger miles ..	183,299,521 ..	230,127,964

PORT (CARGO) CORPORATION

THE cargo handling operations in the Port of Colombo were nationalized with effect from August, 1958, and placed under the management of the Port (Cargo) Corporation. The various cargo handling services were previously carried out by over 20 private companies and stevedore labour contractors.

Organisational set up. The nationalisation of these services and the centralized control of over 2,500 employees of non-labour grades and a labour force of 13,000 workmen under a single management necessarily called for radical changes in organization, the standardization of documentation in

cargo handling and revision of the salaries and wage structure. This change has taken place smoothly. Further changes in Customs procedure, cargo handling operational methods and in the administration of the Port will be necessary. The structure of the revenue earning charges, such as Port dues, harbour dues, pilotage, warehouse rents, as well as cargo handling charges, will have to be re-examined in the context of the nationalization of the Port.

Cargo handling capacity of the Colombo Port. Conditions in the Port had deteriorated sharply in 1957-58, when the average monthly output of dry cargo was not more than 150,000 tons. Ever since nationalisation, there has been a most encouraging and marked improvement. Since August there has been steady progress and the monthly turnover for January 1959 was nearly 250,000 tons. The Port today can cope with a monthly output (dry cargo) of about 250,000 tons. It should be possible for it to cope with double this monthly tonnage.

A substantial increase in cargo handling equipment will be necessary and in addition certain improvements in the present physical limitations of the Port should be carried out. Grave shortages of floating craft have hampered operations. Large orders for new craft and equipment are already in hand. The position in this regard should be satisfactory before the end of this year.

Meanwhile, a long-term programme is being drawn up for increasing warehouse accommodation in the Port. The Beira Lake region too is to be utilized to provide additional facilities for the unloading of cargo in the Port. The Corporation is investigating ways and means of increasing the potentialities of the Port by way of additional alongside facilities for the discharge of cargo.

In consultation with the Ministry of Food, the possibility of establishing grain elevators for the bulk handling of whole wheat in the Port is being examined.

Labour Welfare. While the imperfections and the anomalies in the salary and wage structure of the Corporation are being corrected, the introduction of a system of wage payment on the lines of a Piece Rate Scheme has been proposed and a comprehensive statistical survey of wages, allowances and incentive payment schemes will be carried out in the ensuing months.

Meanwhile, a long-term welfare programme for dock workers is being prepared. The scheme covers the provision of improved meals, rest rooms, canteens and several other welfare amenities.

It is also proposed to initiate a scheme of Labour Work Committees to facilitate democratic consultation between management and labour on the day to day problems of cargo handling operations in the Port.

COLOMBO PORT COMMISSION

ENGINEERING activities will comprise the maintenance of harbour works and facilities at an estimated cost of approximately Rs. 8 million. A large number of new works, mainly of a minor character, and additions and improvements both to the harbour facilities and workshops, plant and machinery, &c., will be carried out to the value of about Rs. 4½ million.

In addition, work will be continued on the electrification of the Port with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs, this year, and on the commissioning of the second Graving Dock at an estimated cost of Rs. 1 million.

Mechanical handling equipment to improve the handling of cargo in the Port will be purchased under Canadian aid to the value of Rs. 2 million.

Welfare amenities

CONSIDERABLE additions will be made to the welfare amenities in the Port both for labour employed under the Port (Cargo)

Corporation and Government labour under the Port Commission. The welfare works planned to be carried out this year are estimated to cost over Rs. 1 million. In addition, new housing and improvements to existing housing will be carried out at a cost of nearly Rs. 3½ lakhs.

A start was made last year with a scheme of medical examination of employees engaged in jobs that could prove harmful to their health. These examinations will be an annual feature to see that the workers maintain their health.

The minor developments at Galle to provide better facilities in the handling of lighters and improvements of berths will be continued this year at a cost of approximately Rs. 1½ million.

Investigations and planning for the development of K. K. S. harbour will be executed this year.

Programme of work for 1959-60

IN addition to the continuation of work on the minor developments at Galle and K.K.S. as stated above, it is proposed to commence surveys and investigations for major developments at Galle and Trincomalee harbours. The total estimated costs of the developments are approximately Rs. 130 million and Rs. 30 million respectively.

On welfare work for the Port (Cargo) Corporation and Port Commission labour, it is proposed to spend approximately Rs. 1.5 million.

It is also proposed to spend another Rs. 1 million on the provision of new housing and improvements to existing housing.

Motor Traffic

THERE has been an appreciable increase in the number of motor vehicles in the Island. The number continues to increase at the rate of about 9,000 vehicles each year. At the end

of 1958, there were 110,505 vehicles in the register of motor vehicles. The number of new motor vehicles registered during 1958 was 9,612. Up to the end of February this year, 1,950 vehicles have been registered.

A system of issuing private car licences across the counter to persons who tender cash for them has been adopted in the Commissioner of Motor Traffic's office. This system has helped considerably to eliminate delays encountered previously by applicants for these licences.

Licence fees collected by the Department during the Financial Year 1957-58 amounted to Rs. 3,707,000. It is expected that no less than four million rupees will be collected during the current Financial Year on this account.

The issue of driving licences forms one of the major functions of the Department. 196,402 driving licences have been issued by the Department up to the end of 1958. Each year an average of about 12,000 driving licences are issued.

Copies of the Highway Code which are available in all three languages are being sold to the public at a nominal price of 10 cents per copy.

Road safety drive

THE funds provided for the Road Safety Campaign are being spent in educating the public and the drivers on safe driving and road rules and in erecting necessary road signs, &c.

Section 198 of the Motor Traffic Act casts a duty upon the Department of Motor Traffic to examine public service vehicles annually, prior to their licensing, for fitness and road-worthiness. Modern equipment and proper facilities for close inspection are lacking.

The services of an expert from New Zealand have been obtained under the Colombo Plan Aid Scheme for the purpose of advising

the Department on setting up an Inspection Station equipped with modern testing equipment.

The necessary equipment for the Testing Station has been purchased in America. The construction of the buildings for the station is in progress and it is expected that this station will start functioning in a few months' time. This will be the only large Testing Station set up in the Island for the purpose of examination of public service vehicles.

In January, this year, the Cabinet decided to abolish the Carriers Permit System for lorries. This decision has been implemented by administrative direction and the necessary amendments to the law have been drafted and await approval.

At present a lorry is free to operate in any part of the Island without a carrier's permit so long as the lorry is licensed. The distinction between private lorries and hiring lorries has been abolished. Owners of private lorries are now free to hire them. This decision was taken to bring down the cost of living. The effects of the abolition of carriers permits as observed in the first month after abolition indicate a considerable fall in rates of lorry transport.

The Department has moved into its new office building at Narahenpita, a spacious and modern building. It should now be possible to overcome a number of administrative and other difficulties which had to be faced when the Department was housed in two buildings, in Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF POSON

(Continued from page 9)

thousand granite blocks. The steps and the massive stones of which they are composed are believed to be the work of giants. All the way up granite monoliths are scattered about—here a great canoe-shaped trough, there pillars and gigantic inscribed tablets. One of the most attractive of these monuments is the Lion Bath—a stone reservoir from whose side issues a magnificent rampant lion. The hill is pleasantly wooded, the turf beneath the trees being scattered over with a confusion of boulders.

On the summit of the mountain there is an ancient dagoba, Ethvehera, in which a

hair of the Buddha is enshrined. The view from the summit is superb. On one side you look down upon the tanks and ruins of Anuradhapura, and on the other across the plain with its green tree tops spreading unbroken to distant peaks.

On every Poson full moon day thousands and thousands of Buddhist devotees climb the weary steps that lead to the rock of Mihintale, disturbing the peace of a forest region with joyful cries of "Sadhu" uttered in adoration of Mahinda, the apostle of Buddhism.



The marriage of
Prince Siddhartha

A Wesak Pageant



A scene depicting the dream of Queen Mahamaya

THE Daya Hewavitarne Dharmadutha Sabha presented on the 22nd and 23rd of May, at Independence Square, a tableau

depicting events from the life of the Buddha. We have selected a few photographs of the scenes from this for reproduction in this picture feature.

The Daya Hewavitarne Dharmadutha Sabha was inaugurated on June 9, 1956, by Mrs. Daya Hewavitarne with the primary object of working for the welfare and happiness of the people of this country and for the propagation of the Buddha Dhamma.

The aims and objects of this society are :—

- (1) The uplift and amelioration of the rural population ;
- (2) The establishment and maintenance of Children's Homes ;
- (3) The conducting and founding of Dhamma Schools ; and
- (4) Furtherance of all Buddhist activities.

The members of the society pay regular visits to backward villages situated in the more remote areas and render necessary



At the soil grove in Lumbini
where Prince Siddhartha
was born



Prince Siddhartha and Devadatha

assistance and guidance to improve the living conditions of the people. The following villages have been visited :—Hengawa, Indi-

godawela, Imbulana, Rambodagalla, Galapitigala, Hunuwala—Opanayaka, Walahapitiya, Dagonna, Gawaragiriya, Hipawwa, Malkaduwawa, Kohilagedera, Mawatagama and Rambukkana.

The establishment of schools, the conducting of needle work classes, distribution of food and clothing to the destitute and needy, comforting the sick and providing them with the necessary medicine and nourishment, and rendering assistance for the development of cottage industries in rural areas comprise some of the activities in which the society is at present engaged. The village of Maha Kirimetiya in Anuradhapura District which was badly damaged by the floods was taken over by the society for rehabilitation. This village with 25 families had a temple and a school which were destroyed by the floods. Members paid monthly visits to this place and distributed food and clothing. The health of the villages was



A scene depicting people watching Prince Siddhartha show his prowess

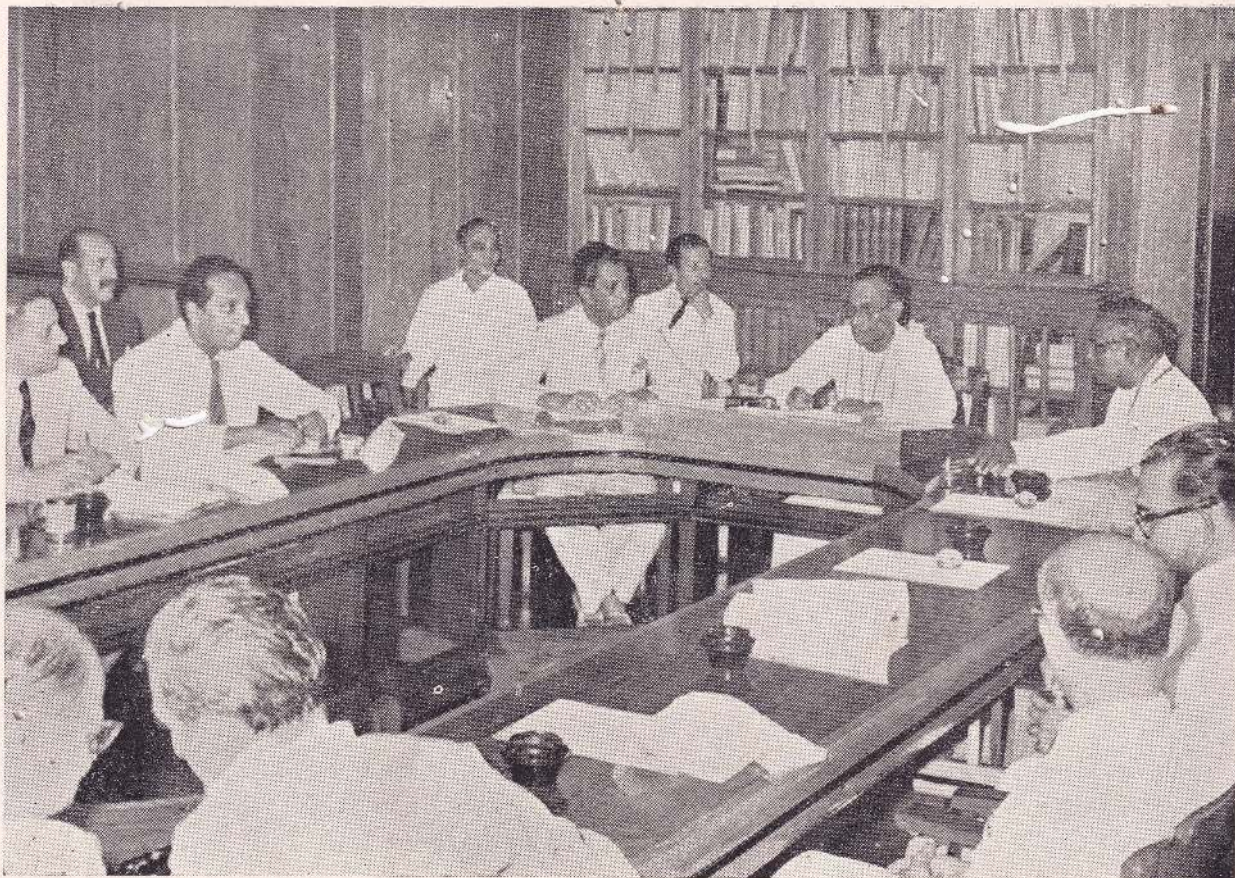
looked after and seed paddy was supplied to the villagers for the cultivation of their fields.

Arrangements have been made to establish a Home for abandoned children. A block of land has already been secured for this purpose and building operations will be commenced as soon as the financial assistance promised by the Government is received.

“Bakthi Gee”, which was started two years ago, has become popular. A party of singers drawn from the leading Girl’s

Colleges in Colombo parades the streets of Colombo, Lunawa, Moratuwa and Panadura during Wesak week. During the emergency, the society organised and managed two refugee camps in Colombo. This work was highly commended by the Government.

Even as the Buddha said “Go forth, O, ye monks, and preach for the welfare and happiness of the many”, the society is working with determination and courage for the uplift of the poor and needy and for the propagation and furtherance of the Buddha Sasana.



The Ceylon Premier (at head of table) with the delegates from four Colombo Power countries—India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ceylon—who met in Colombo recently to discuss the proposed Afro-Asian Economic Conference

Afro-Asian Economic Conference Preliminary Meeting

A preliminary meeting at official level was held in Colombo from May 25-28 to discuss the possibility of holding an Afro-Asian Economic Conference. The meeting was attended by delegates from four Colombo Power countries—India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ceylon.

We give here the texts of the speeches, made at the opening session on May 25, by the Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Hon. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike; and by the High Commissioner for India in Ceylon

Shri Y. D. Gundevia; the Indonesian Minister in Ceylon, Mr. R. M. Soerianata Djoemena; the High Commissioner for Pakistan in Ceylon, Mr. Mirza Hamid Hussein; and the text of the communique that was issued at the end of the talks.

The Ceylon Premier, in his opening address, said :—

“May I, on behalf of the Government of Ceylon, extend a very warm and cordial welcome to representatives of the Colombo Powers who have come to have certain

preliminary discussions regarding this important proposal. There are representatives here from India, Pakistan and Indonesia. The other member of the Colombo Powers, Burma, had some doubts as to whether a conference of this sort was opportune and has not taken part in these discussions, although we hope that they, too, later on will be with us. We value very greatly their co-operation, too. If I may, at this preliminary meeting, say a few words regarding the background of the origin and the purpose of this proposal, I should like, very briefly, to touch on a few important points."

"As you know, at that most important conference, the Bandung Conference, held four years ago, a very vast range of subjects of interest to the countries represented there were considered and resolutions—important resolutions—were discussed and adopted. As you know, the Bandung Conference had a very wide range of subjects—political, national, economic and cultural, amongst other important subjects. The purpose of Bandung, I should think, a purpose which it served admirably, was really partly psychological, partly the laying of foundations for the recognition of certain common needs of a region, many of the countries of which had recently regained their freedom; others were well on the way to the regaining of freedom. The so-called countries of Africa and Asia necessarily possessed a common outlook on many subjects, as well as certain common concrete problems over that wide range—political, economic, cultural, &c."

"Now, as you are aware, it was contemplated originally at the Bandung Conference that the next conference on the same pattern should be held two years later. As a matter of fact, a suggestion was made as regards the possible or probable venue. But as time went on, discussions, particularly between the Colombo Powers, made us feel that it may be advisable that the Conference be not held at the time it was

originally contemplated for various reasons; because of troubles in the region at the time and also the emergence of certain political problems between members of the region. It made us feel that perhaps a conference in that particular way with that wide range of subjects for discussion may, perhaps, not yield any really valuable results and it was, therefore, considered necessary to consider the subjects later. At that stage, at the end of 1956, there was some trouble in the Suez Canal region, and the Prime Minister of India called a meeting of the Colombo Powers at Delhi towards the end of 1956, and there, in the course of discussion, I made the suggestion that, even if it may not be quite wise at that time to hold a second conference on the same plane as the Bandung Conference, we may certainly at least address our minds usefully and profitably to various economic problems that affect our region.

"As a beginning towards the consideration of that proposition, it was decided to set up small committees to discuss any economic problems arising particularly as a result of the trouble in Western Asia, and I believe the Colombo Powers nominated their representatives in Colombo to meet and discuss. But fortunately and happily the difficulty in Suez was quickly settled, so that the particular committee did not find it necessary to continue to work over the special problem for which we had appointed it. Then it occurred to me that it may not be undesirable to pursue the main proposition of holding a conference to consider various economic problems common to us all with the expectation that, at least, even if we do not achieve 100 per cent of our expectation, there was bound to result some substantial advantage by such a discussion.

Economic Co-operation

"I WISH to draw your attention and refresh your memories regarding what happened at the Bandung Conference on this question of

economic co-operation. There a very few resolutions were adopted, as it was inevitable in the circumstances, couched in very general terms. The parties agreed to provide technical assistance to one another and recognized the vital need for stabilizing commodity trade in the region.

"The next point was, attention was drawn to the need for diversification of exports by processing the raw material, where economically feasible. Another point was the difficulty regarding shipping. A further point was the desirability of establishing national and regional banks. Then there was reference to keeping each other informed; reference to the all-important subject of oil, a very valuable commodity, even to pour on troubled waters! Then attention was drawn to the development of nuclear energy for useful purposes. But the really operative part of it was only this. The Asian-African Conference agreed to the appointment of liaison officers in participating countries to be nominated by their respective countries for the exchange of information on matters affecting this region. Such officers were—I was not in the Government at that time—appointed by the various countries, Ceylon included, and there the matter appears to have ended. Liaison officers were appointed, but no further work was done. Now, that is the position up-to-date over this very important resolution dealing with economic matters passed at the Bandung Conference.

"Merely speaking for myself at the moment, if I may say so, I have always been impressed by the fact, which all of us recognize, that, for various reasons, the lack of economic stability affects the entire stability, political as well as otherwise, of this region. I am speaking in the sense of countries represented at the Bandung Conference. Is it not possible on the lines of the Bandung Conference to consider certain steps we ourselves may take to help ourselves in effecting this very important task of stabilization? Naturally we are all most grateful to our friends in this world, as well as

various international organizations, for the assistance that they have rendered, and are rendering, our countries by way of loans and assistance in various ways. We are most grateful to them and it is very useful to us, but I cannot escape the conviction that that sort of assistance may well become a type of economic drug where there is undue and increasing dependence on that to an extent, perhaps, that is not very healthy for our own economic development. Many of our countries may, quite inadvertently, become drug addicts economically, by dependence on foreign aid from our good friends all over, to whom I again extend my thanks for the assistance they have given, and are giving, us. The question of economic stability, does it not go beyond that? Discussions by ourselves are likely to be of considerable help.

Lead by Colombo Powers

"NOW, following that line of thinking, I thought I might advantageously—although our country is a very small country, probably the smallest among the Colombo Powers—pursue this idea. I ventured to write on this subject not only to the Colombo Powers but also to all the countries that were represented at Bandung, as well as certain others that had in the meantime advanced to a status of freedom which they did not have at the time of the Bandung Conference and which were, therefore, obviously entitled to know the principles that were enunciated at the Bandung Conference. Most of the countries expressed the view that a lead in the matter, as it was in the case of the Bandung Conference, should be taken by the Colombo Powers in making arrangements, &c. That is why I took the lead and most of the other countries felt that the Colombo Powers may deal with this subject well. I addressed this letter to thirty others. Of the thirty, only two, Burma and Laos, have expressed the feeling that they did not consider it opportune to have such a Conference. From three, the Philippines, a

Sudan and Yemen, we have not received final answers yet. All the rest have given general agreement, and at that point I took the matter up with the other Colombo Powers and it was felt that preliminarily a meeting of officials would be useful of the Colombo Powers, to thrash out certain preliminary matters.

"Thereafter, the Governments concerned or the Prime Ministers might finalize matters regarding the holding of the Conference, the precise nature of the agenda, the venue, dates, &c. Hence it is that this meeting is now being held at official level to discuss these preliminary matters. Of course, it is for you to decide what you consider to be the necessary preliminary matters to be discussed. I would like you to have before you, of course, the detailed replies I have received from these various countries, for your consideration; to consider the preliminary question whether a Conference of this sort is one which you can recommend to your various Governments. You can address your minds to that.

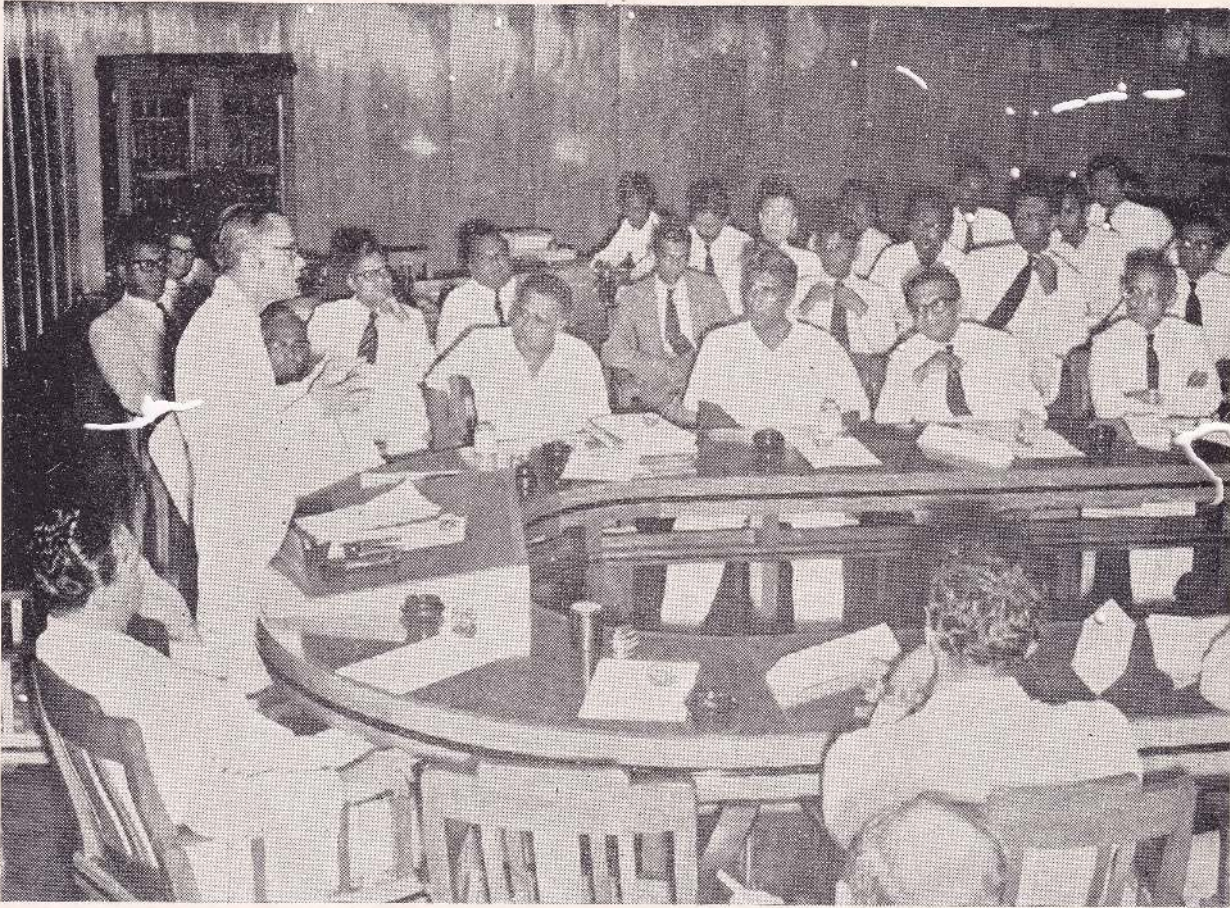
"Then, of course, the Agenda. The general questions to be discussed under heads and sub-heads, possible dates, &c., these, of course, to be submitted to the respective countries. Thereafter, naturally, these various participants would like to have—it is most necessary that they should have—somewhat detailed memoranda on the various subjects considered, for consideration at the Conference, so that they themselves may bring their minds to bear on those subjects and have their own ideas clarified before actually coming to the Conference. That may take some months. Well, thereafter, the Governments would meet and presumably these various subjects, embodied in suitable resolutions as agreed upon by the members, would be put forward and, if they are approved of, the Conference itself should proceed to set up machinery in order to deal with the subjects on the lines approved of by the Conference. It is so easy, I have noticed, both in national and international affairs, to

rather lose sight of the operative part of a resolution and lay more stress on the enunciating of a principle. When that happens, the whole subject tends to be lost sight of. I do not propose to deal at any length with the subjects. Most of them were included, as a matter of fact in the Bandung Resolution.

No more blocs

"BEFORE I come to that, I must say this. This is not intended to form any more blocs. We have quite enough blocs in the world already. We know that there are very many international organizations which somewhat cover the ground contemplated, though by no means in the way that this Conference is intended to cover. This is not intended to cut across various types of assistance to various international bodies, by bilateral agreements, trade agreements, agreements for economic development. I think when all that is left out, there is still a residue that is not affected by any existing machinery of which I am aware, which certainly may profitably be dealt with by a Conference of this nature.

"Then there are a few points. The question of food production, I do not know how some of you feel in regard to this. In Ceylon we are always in difficulty over rice. There are very few countries in Asia that are surplus rice-producing countries. We have always difficulty in obtaining rice. If the countries that are surplus rice-producers would come to some long-term arrangements with regard to the needs of our own country, it would be very helpful. Otherwise, however expensive or uneconomical it may be, we may have to become self-sufficient in such a need as rice. We can take steps to avoid that, so that we can concentrate on agricultural development in our countries rather than engage upon the task which becomes increasingly pressing, whatever the cost, to become self-sufficient in rice. That is hardly in the interests of surplus producers,



The Prime Minister, the Hon. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, addressing the opening session of the preliminary meeting in Colombo on May 25, 1959

“Then the question of industrial development, I do not know whether you agree with me. Many of our countries are at the beginning of industrial development; the newly-free countries, which were colonies earlier, are starting industrial development. It is not possible, without interfering with the needs of international development, to think somewhat on the lines of regional economic planning, in order to avoid particularly wasteful and uneconomic industrialization. Here we have to contend with highly industrial countries of the world. But surely there is still a certain region that might be explored usefully, to the benefit of all of us, and which can be done at our

present stage of industrialization; of some type of planning from a regional point of view. I think certainly it is a subject worthy of some consideration.

“Then, of course, the question of population is becoming far more pressing in all our countries. May be, in the exchange of information some kind of policy might be made bearing this problem in mind.

“That, is really all I wish to say at this stage. Naturally this is a Conference at official level, but I and my Ministers will always be at your disposal as regards all points you may wish to discuss, and I do not know how long you might take on your discussions. Of course, you can change the

programme as you consider best. I should like to thank you once again for your presence here and hope that you will have a pleasant time with us."

The High Commissioner for India

THE High Commissioner for India in Ceylon, Shri Y. D. Gundevia, in his reply said :—

"On behalf of the Government of India and on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our cordial appreciation of the excellent opening address of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. We welcome this opportunity of participating in this conference, to discuss and agree upon the programme and agenda for a possible conference of Bandung countries.

"It is now more than four years since the Bandung Conference was held. That conference brought the countries of Asia and Africa closer together, and it was agreed that we should explore, from time to time, the ways and means of fostering economic co-operation among ourselves. The countries in this region have one major problem in common, namely, the problem of economic development. Many of them have attained an independent status only recently and they are all trying their best to raise the living standards of their people and to make good, to the extent possible, the lag in development which has arisen over the last hundred years and more.

"The tasks before us are difficult. The Afro-Asian countries are widely dispersed, geographically, and they are at different stages of development. Their problems are not—and, indeed, cannot be—identical. And yet, they have a great deal in common and they are all anxious to strengthen their mutual ties, both economic and cultural. Your country took the lead, a few years ago, in calling a conference which led to the adoption of the well-known Colombo Plan. This Plan has provided the frame work within which the participating countries seek their own development and assist one

another, mutually, to the extent their resources permit. The Colombo Plan has been a shining example of what well-considered economic co-operation can achieve, and we, therefore, welcome your idea of holding this conference, to consider, on a wider forum, the lines along which we could pursue further the course of mutual economic co-operation.

"While we value every opportunity for furthering our common interests and ideals, I think we should not, in any way, minimize or under-estimate the difficulties involved. Almost all the countries in this region are under-developed countries and they are all short of capital. They have been trying to push ahead with their development plans, mainly, of course, on the basis of their own resources, however limited, but also, inevitably, with considerable assistance from countries outside this region, which are industrially more advanced. Further, almost all countries in this region have balance of payments difficulties; they are short of foreign exchange. For various historical reasons, the economics of these countries have developed as complementary to certain economics outside the region. By and large, the region has specialized in primary products, and needs capital and know-how from elsewhere. The complementarity between their economics is, for the present, rather limited. Nevertheless, the situation is changing and we hope it will change fast. There will, therefore, be increasing opportunities, as development plans proceed, for strengthening the trade and economic relationships between these countries. It is necessary in these matters to consider not only the immediate situation, but also the long term potentialities of growth over this wide area.

"I find from the list of subjects suggested by you for discussion at this conference, that you desire us to cover a wide ground. This is as it should be. Problems connected with stabilization of the prices of primary products, problems of trade and tariff policies,

import controls, the study of population trends and their implications on economic growth—in fact a review of the progress of development plans and policies in all their varied aspects—would be of great value to the countries in this region, individually as well as collectively. This is as true today as it was when these problems were considered in the context of the resolution you have just referred to. We, in India, have been concentrating all our energies on the implementation of our development plans. We are in the fourth year of our Second Five-Year Plan and we are, at present, considering our approach to the Third Five-Year Plan—the scale of investment, the ordering of priorities, the means of financing, and all the problems that arise from all this. The promotion of development, as rapid as might be possible and as comprehensive and well balanced as we can make it, is the keynote of all our policies. We are, naturally, anxious to explore every avenue for economic co-operation within this region, as well as with countries outside the region.

“In discussing our problems in the next few days and in our subsequent conference, I dare say I am voicing the sentiments of all our colleagues round this table, we must approach our tasks in no spirit of exclusiveness. The Colombo Plan is, essentially, a co-operative endeavour. The last Bandung Conference was also an attempt to discover and to promote points of common interest and endeavour. Our view has always been that whatever the difference in political and social set-ups, as between various countries, there are always economic problems of common interest, towards the solution of which, effort on a mutually beneficial basis is called for, must be attempted and must succeed. It is with this expectation and with this idealism that we come to this meeting, which you have called together. May I express the hope on behalf of my Government and my delegation for the best success of our collective efforts.”

Minister for Indonesia

THE Indonesian Minister in Ceylon, Mr. R. M. Soerianata Djoemena, said:—

“In the first place, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank Your Excellency for the hospitality which they are enjoying at present. I wish also to thank Your Excellency for your enlightening address at the outset of our work today. Indeed, in many ways, our task has been considerably lightened.

“Further, I wish to assure Your Excellency that my Government is in complete agreement with your proposal to have an Economic Conference of the Asian-African countries as the logical sequence to the Bandung Conference of 1955. The desire of my Government to co-operate in this great endeavour and to play her share in its success is indicated by the sending of this Indonesian delegation to this preparatory committee. Indeed, foremost in the thoughts of the Indonesian Government is the success which has to be achieved by the coming Economic Conference. In view of the magnitude of this Conference, we, of this Preparatory Committee, have indeed a heavy responsibility. We have come here together on an official level charged with the task as set out in your memorandum of 14th October 1958, i.e., to work out the details regarding representation, time, place, agenda, etc. of the coming Conference.

“In our opinion, one of the decisive factors towards success or failure of any Conference is its agenda. Therefore, in our opinion, the most important task of this Committee is to try to set up an agenda which should give us a reasonable assurance that that agenda would be successfully dealt with by the Conference. It is therefore our conviction that we have to approach this task with the utmost caution.

“With regard to the nine points raised in your memorandum, my delegation will present in due course our own views but we are of the opinion that the present deliberations on the subject should take the form of free discussions to explore the common

grounds which exist between all our countries with regard to these problems. In other words, we would like to see that the opinion of our delegation which will be voiced in subsequent meetings should not necessarily be identified with the official stand of my Government on a specific issue. This is not an avoiding on our part of our responsibility but in our opinion this is the best way to approach our tasks in view of the magnitude of the problems and the many facets involved.

“In addition to the points raised in the fore-mentioned memorandum, the Indonesian delegation would like to submit some suggestions. We would like to add two items to our deliberations. In the first place what is foremost in our minds is the establishment of a kind of permanent secretariat which could deal with the implementation of the decisions taken by the forthcoming Economic Conference. We have also in mind that this secretariat could do a very useful and desirable job of co-ordinating, functioning as a clearing house for the exchange of information and charged with other relevant tasks.

“In the second place, where our primary concern is and should be the economic development of the Asian-African countries, it would be in our opinion desirable and useful if the Economic Conference also pays attention to some economic trends existing in countries outside the Asian-African group which may have a bearing or influence on the economic developments of all our countries.

“In conclusion, my delegation wishes to assure the other members of this Committee of our wholehearted co-operation to bring our common task to a successful end.”

The High Commissioner for Pakistan

THE High Commissioner for Pakistan in Ceylon, Mr. Mirza Hamid Hussein, said:—

“On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, we welcome the convening of this prepara-

tory conference of officials to lay the groundwork for an economic conference of Afro-Asian states. We are grateful to the Prime Minister of Ceylon for taking the initiative in calling the conference and we fully appreciate the efforts that have gone into bringing this preparatory conference about.

“We appreciate the continuing efforts of the Government of Ceylon to carry on the good work of Bandung; the establishment of a Consultative Committee of the Colombo Powers at the time of the Suez crisis was one of these practical efforts. It is natural that we may vary in emphasis or see things from a different angle on some of the problems before us. Our efforts should, however, be directed to identify those fields in which concerted action on a regional basis could profitably be taken with the co-operation and concurrence of those represented.

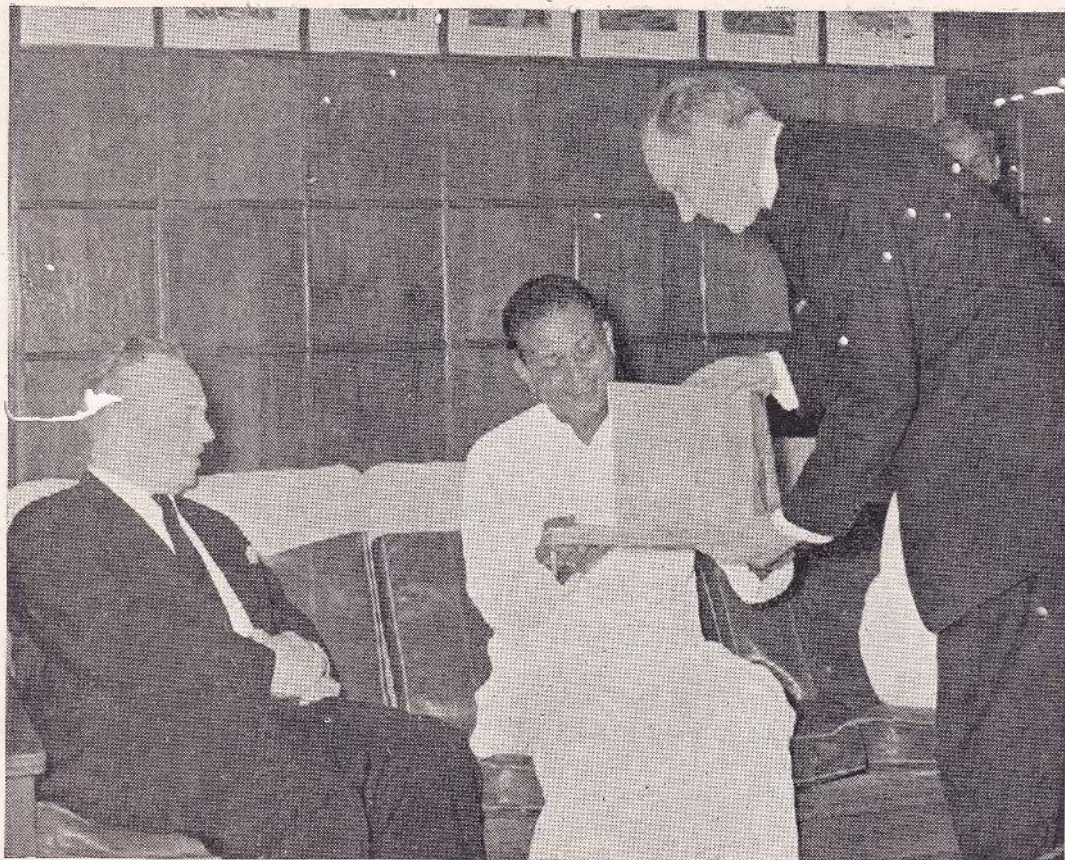
“The Bandung Conference was no doubt a historical occasion. It, however, merely opened a new chapter and there are so many new leaves to be turned before Afro-Asian co-operation could achieve reality in the economic sphere. We offer our best wishes to the Conference in this task and extend the co-operation of the Government of Pakistan towards this end. I have not gone into details but the views of my Government will be conveyed as we proceed.”

Final Communique

THE following is the text of the communique that was issued at the end of the talks:—

The Preparatory Committee of Officials of the Colombo Powers appointed to look into preliminary matters connected with the holding of the proposed conference of Asian-African countries concluded their deliberations on Thursday, 28th May. They prepared a report for presentation to the Prime Ministers of the Colombo Powers and they discussed this report informally with the Ceylon Prime Minister before it was finalised.

(Continued on page 32)



Members of the Scandinavian delegation for air talks with the Ceylon Government called on the Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, shortly before the negotiations opened at "Temple Trees," on May 26th

Three New Bilateral Air Agreements Signed

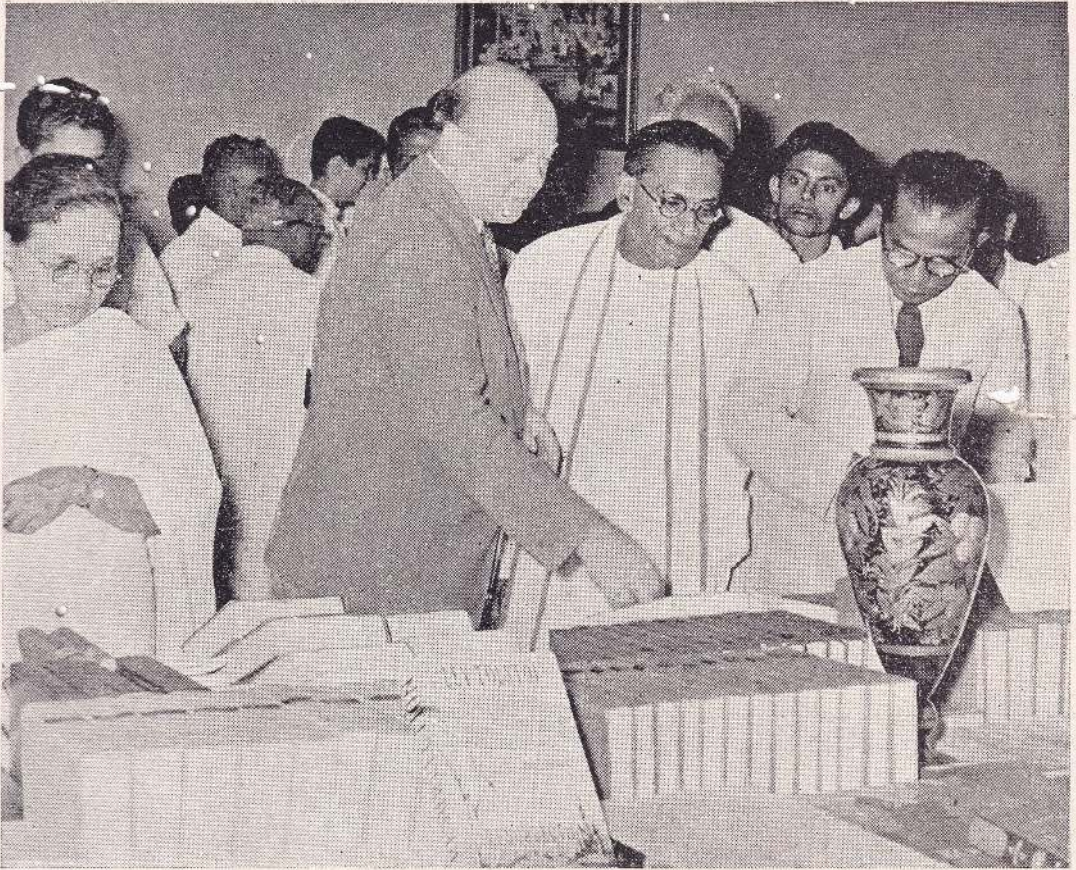
PRELIMINARY work has begun on the development of Katunayake as an international airport to meet the needs of the jet age. The repair, re-surfacing and electric lighting of the runway at Ratmalana, as well as the provision of a modernised terminal building there, the proposed re-organization of the Air Academy, and the expansion of the internal air services, are also under way.

Besides, three important air transport agreements were signed recently with foreign countries.

A delegation from Ceylon headed by the Transport Minister, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, visited China recently and signed a bilateral air agreement with the Chinese Government. Following this, Air Ceylon is expected to inaugurate an air service to Canton in November.

An Italian delegation led by the Italian Minister of Civil Aviation, Dr. G. Bovetti, visited Ceylon in May and signed an air agreement with the Ceylon Government which gave Air Ceylon permanent traffic rights in Rome.

(Continued on page 32)



The Ceylon Premier, with the Soviet Ambassador in Ceylon, Mr. V. Yakovlev, at the Exhibition of Soviet books which was held at the Art Gallery, Colombo, recently

Foreign Affairs

SHRI Humayun Kabir, India's Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs arrived in Ceylon on Wednesday, May 6, on a four-day visit to the Island. He was accompanied by his wife.

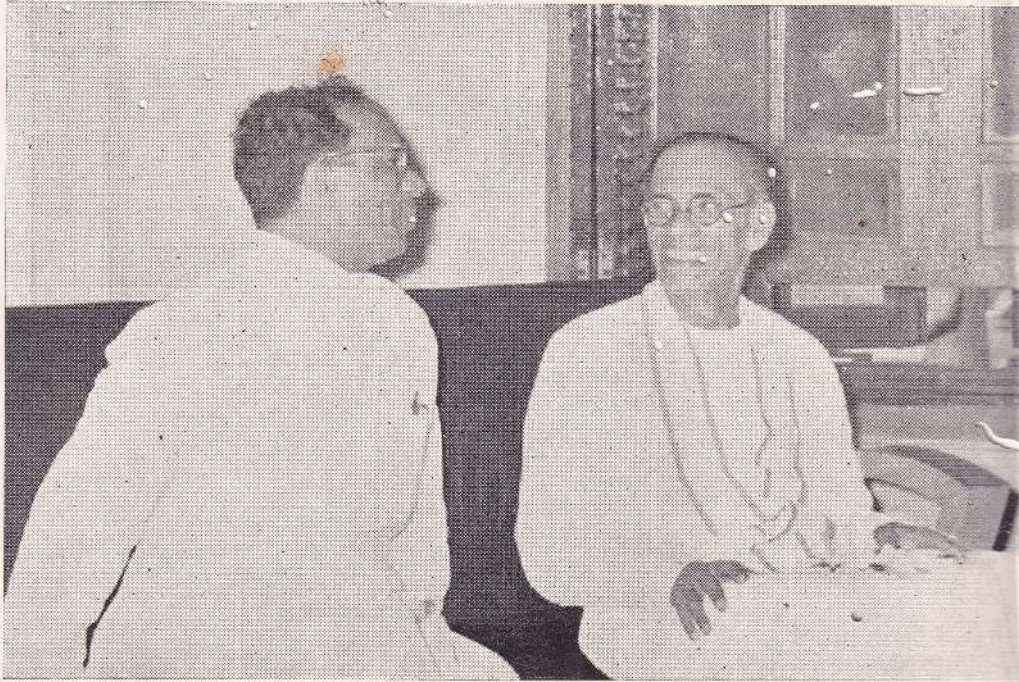
On the first day of his visit, after calling on the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Shri Kabir addressed the recently inaugurated Ceylon Institute of World Affairs. This was followed by an official dinner given in his honour by the Ceylon Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs.

The following day, Shri Kabir left for Kandy by car to visit the Sri Dalada Maligawa, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the University of Ceylon at Peradeniya. From Kandy he went to Polonnaruwa by way of Sigiriya.

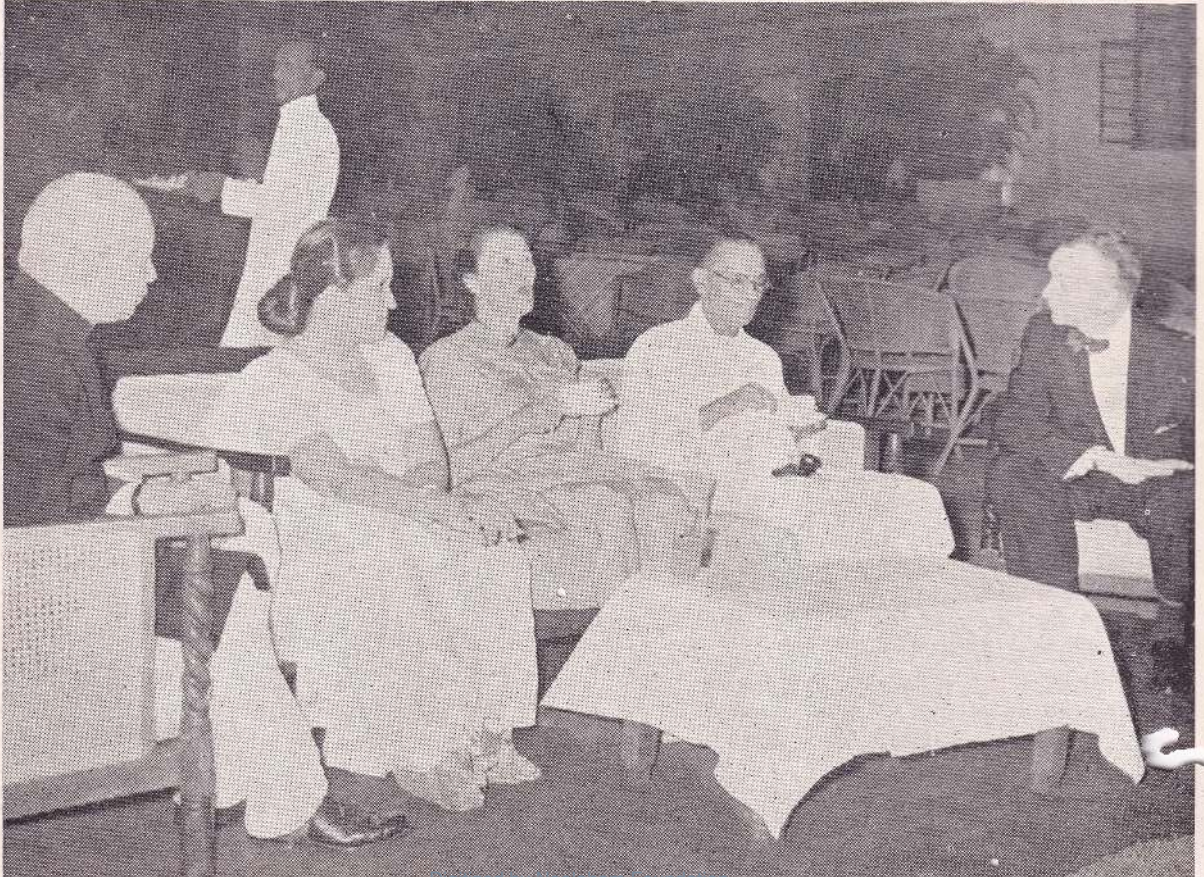
He returned to Colombo on Friday. In the afternoon he visited Sri Palee, Horana, where he addressed a meeting and later attended a dinner given by Mr. Wilmot A. Perera.

On Saturday morning the Indian Minister visited the Vidyalandkara University. Shortly

Shri Humayun
Kabir, India's
Minister of
Scientific Research
and Cultural Affairs,
with the Prime
Minister, Mr. S. W.
R. D. Bandaranaike



The Ceylon Premier
gave a party at
"Temple Trees"
recently in honour
of the delegates
who attended the
United Nations
Seminar on Human
Rights, held
recently at the
University of
Ceylon, Peradeniya





Mr. Wilmot A. Perera speaking at the ceremony at "Sri Palee". Mr. Perera is the founder of this well-known cultural institution

afterwards he called on H. E. the Governor-General.

In the afternoon he left for Sri Palee, Horana, where he presided at the Prize Giving and made an important speech on Tagore and Internationalism.

A section of the invitees at Sri Palee who listened to Shri Kabir



Shri Kabir and his wife left for India by plane on Sunday.

Trade Talks with Yugoslavia

THE Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, who led the Ceylon delegation to Yugoslavia to discuss economic aid and technical co-operation, returned to Ceylon on May 11th. In a statement issued in Colombo shortly after his return, Mr. Senanayake said that the Yugoslav Government had made generous offers of not less than 70 million rupees to Ceylon to be utilised over a period of three years on the purchase of capital goods from Yugoslavia. It would be made available after an agreement was signed.

He added: "Yugoslavia is prepared to provide us with technical assistance and a comprehensive agreement has been signed relating to mutual assistance in this field. I intend myself to send electrical engineers to Yugoslavia shortly to try to arrange for a team of Yugoslav experts in the field of

designing hydro-electric schemes to come to Ceylon to design schemes along with our own engineers, who would thus be trained to design later schemes themselves without our having to call in consultants from abroad each time. Similar and other facilities would be available to other Ministries and Departments too.

"The Yugoslav market for our exports has been relatively unexplored. I am convinced that intensive trade promotion can help to increase our export of tea, rubber and cocoa. The possibilities of coconut oil seem to be limited, but desiccated coconut, almost unknown in Yugoslavia, at present, has good prospects. Tea is particularly important, as we may hope for an increase in the consumption of tea, as distinct from a mere change in source of supply, as might happen in the case of rubber or cocoa.

"A protocol of the existing trade agreement between the two countries was signed in which certain provisions of the trade agreement were reaffirmed and the offer of the loan by Yugoslavia and an entrepot trade through the port of Rigeika were incorporated. I can see considerable advantage accruing to Ceylon in marketing her products in Eastern and Central Europe through the port of Rigeika by way of a reduction in transport costs and in the profits of intermediaries."

Mr. Senanayake added that he had taken the opportunity to take up with the Secretaries of State for Foreign Trade and Transport the subject of an air link between Colombo and Belgrade with the intention of introducing a second flight for Air Ceylon through Cairo and Belgrade to Paris and Amsterdam. This proposal was enthusiastically received and he hoped to pursue it.

Premier Opens Soviet Book Exhibition

THE Prime Minister, the Hon. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, declaring open an Exhibition of Soviet Books at the Art Gallery, Colombo, on May 12th, paid a tribute to the great

Russian authors and poets for the prominent part they had played in the field of literature. Mr. Bandaranaike referred specifically to Tolstoy's "War and Peace", and described it as "the finest writing by anyone in any language at any time." The literature of other countries should be a source of inspiration to writers in our own country, observed Mr. Bandaranaike.

The Exhibition was sponsored by the Embassy of the U. S. S. R., in co-operation with the Ceylon Ministry of Local Government and Cultural Affairs. The Russian Ambassador in Ceylon, His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Yakovlev, said that two interesting and very good exhibitions had already been held by Ceylon in the Soviet Union. This exhibition of books was a reciprocal gesture and an exhibition of Soviet paintings would be held in Colombo later this year.

Ceylon Gift to Australia

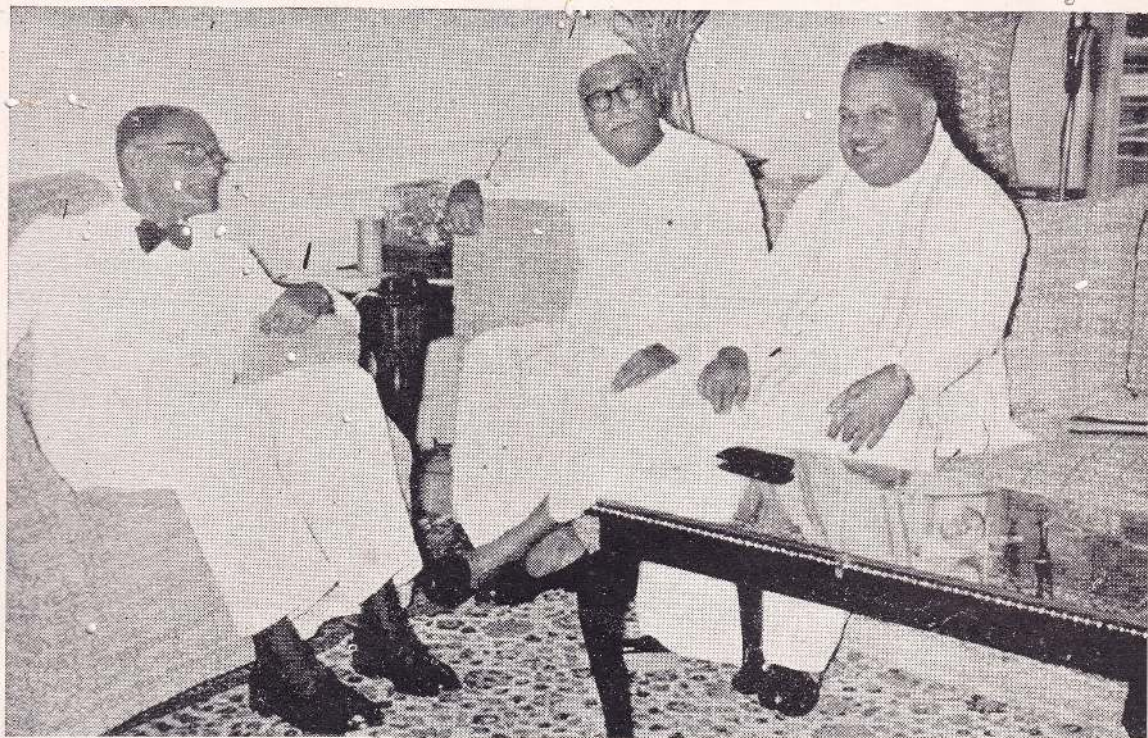
THE High Commissioner for Ceylon in Australia, Mr. B. F. Perera, recently presented to the Australian National Library a copy of the Ceylon volume of the UNESCO World Art Series.

The presentation ceremony took place in the office of the President of the Senate, Sir Alister McMullin, who is also chairman of the Commonwealth Library Committee.

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, accepted the gift on behalf of the Library Committee. Mr. Casey's remarks were supported by the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. H. V. Evatt.

In presenting the volume, Mr. Perera said: "It gives me a sense of personal satisfaction and pleasure to feel that this modest gesture on the part of my Government will help to cement still further the good relations that exist between our two countries.

"It is a happy augury for the future, at any rate in this part of the world, that in the recent past we in Ceylon have been



Mr. C. A. S. Marikkar, Minister of Posts, Broadcasting and Information photographed with the Indian President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, when he called on the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on April 23. The High Commissioner for Ceylon in India, Sir Richard Aluwihare is also seen in the picture

looking eastwards and southwards more and more and you in Australia have been looking northwards in an attempt to gain a closer understanding of the problems and difficulties that face all of us in Asia."

Mr. Perera said that the book was sponsored a few years ago by UNESCO in collaboration with the Ceylon authorities and two interesting prefaces had been embodied in the book which gave the story of Ceylon art.

"One of the prefaces is written by Mr. Archer, a former Indian Civil Servant, who is now Head of the Indian Section in the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington.

"The other is written by our famous Archæological Commissioner, Dr. Parana-

vitarne, who is now the Emeritus Professor of Archæology in the Ceylon University.

"The earliest paintings in the book go back to the 5th century A.D., and show the famous Sigiriya Frescoes found on the walls of this rock fortress.

"There are other paintings reproduced from the originals found on the walls and ceilings of temples and shrines in Ceylon."

Mr. Casey said: "Ceylon and Australia have had the happiest of relations over a number of years.

"This presentation will form another evidence of friendship between our Governments and people. Please give our best thanks to your Government."

Dr. Evatt said: "This will only confirm and strengthen the friendship of our people."

Messages to Israel and Czechoslovakia

THE Prime Minister of Ceylon sent a message of felicitations and good wishes to the Prime Minister and the Government and people of Czechoslovakia on May 9, 1959, on the occasion of the National Day of Czechoslovakia. The Prime Minister sent a similar message to the Government and people of Israel on the occasion of the National Day of Israel on May 13, 1959.

Ceylon's Minister to Greece appointed Ambassador

THE Government of Ceylon has, with the concurrence of the Government of Greece, decided to raise the status of its diplomatic mission to Greece to that of an Embassy and to appoint His Excellency Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle, M.V.O., at present Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Ceylon to Greece, as Ceylon's first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Greece. His Excellency Mr. Hulugalle who is also Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Ceylon in Rome will continue to reside in Rome.

AFRO-ASIAN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 25)

The main task of the Committee was the preparation of a draft Agenda for the conference. The draft agenda anticipates that the conference will make a review of world economic trends and of economic development and problems relating to the region. Other subjects are related to population, industrialisation, food, primary products,

trade promotion, shipping and nuclear energy.

The Committee's report will be considered by the Prime Ministers of the Colombo Powers, who will take the final decisions regarding the holding of the conference. India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ceylon were represented at the meeting of the officials' committee. Burma was unable to attend.

THREE NEW BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENTS SIGNED

(Continued from page 26)

A joint delegation from the Scandinavian countries, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, also visited Ceylon in May and signed an air agreement. According to the agreement

Air Ceylon has been granted traffic rights in the Scandinavian countries, while SAS, the Scandinavian airline, has received traffic rights in Ceylon.

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