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Sri Lanka and Republic of Maldives Post Report

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Preface

Sri Lanka has often been described as a "tropical paradise." Coastal belt vegetation is lush and dramatic, and the interior's mountainous areas are spectacular. Pleasant sea breezes temper the coast's tropical climate through most of the year. Hills and mountains in the island's center are usually cool at night.

The morale of foreigners living in Sri Lanka depends on attitude and adaptability to life and conditions here. If you take the differences, the occasional inconveniences, and the frustrations of life abroad in stride and in the spirit of adventure, a tour in Sri Lanka can be stimulating and rewarding. The interplay of racial, religious, linguistic, economic and ideological groups presents an opportunity for study and analysis of the forces that mold a developing country during a period of rapid social change and institutional growth and evolution.

Cover: Two residents of the government-run elephant orphanage at Pinnawela.

This is the official post report prepared by the post. The information contained herein is directed to official U.S. Government employees and their families. Any other information concerning the facts as set forth herein is to be regarded as unofficial information.

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The Host Country

Area, Geography, and Climate

Sri Lanka is a pear-shaped island in the Indian Ocean—18 miles from India at its closest point. The country, roughly the size of West Virginia, has an area of 25,332 square miles and is 270 miles long and 140 miles wide. It lies in the tropical zone between 5°N and 9°N and between 79°E and 82°E. Its time zone is 10½ hours ahead of eastern standard time and 5½ hours ahead of Greenwich mean time.

Sri Lanka has many spots of scenic beauty and historic interest. Topographically the island consists of two main sections: the mountainous south-central region which rises to 8,296 feet above sea level and the low-lying northern, eastern, and southwestern coastal plains. Dense vegetation covers a large part of Sri Lanka, particularly the southern and western coasts. Rubber and coconut trees grow in the midlands and lowlands, and the highlands have vast tea estates.

Sri Lanka has a varied effect on Westerners who remain on the island a considerable time without a break. People who like hot weather and are active in sports usually enjoy themselves and keep physically fit and mentally alert. Those used to seasonal changes may find the tropical climate monotonous and enervating. The climate, except in the mountains, is hot and humid. In Colombo temperatures rarely rise above 90°F or drop below 70°F. Humidity is always high, often in the 90s. In the mountainous districts the average temperature is about 60°F during the day, but at night it cools off rapidly, sometimes dropping to near freezing in winter in places like Nuwara Eliya (at an altitude of 6,200 feet).

Monsoons produce two main rainy seasons. The southwest monsoon lasts roughly from mid-May into early fall. During this

period the southwestern part of the island, including Colombo, receives much of its average annual rainfall of 100 inches. The northeast monsoon lasts from about October or November through February. The northern and eastern parts of the island receive virtually all their average annual rainfall of 60 inches at this time.

Monsoon showers range from gentle to torrential in the Colombo area. December through March are usually the driest months. Due to the massive Mahaweli hydroelectric and irrigation scheme, water shortages and interruptions of electricity during the dry months are less frequent than in the past.

Colombo's climate is like Washington, D.C.'s hot, humid summers. Even during the cooler December and January period, most Americans depend on electric fans or air-conditioning for comfort.

Population

In 1981 the population was nearly 15 million. Although the population has more than doubled over the past 28 years, the overall growth rate is slowing. As a result of local government efforts and foreign assistance in family planning programs, the population growth rate dropped from 7.7% in 1963 to under 2% in 1980. The current rate is 1.8%; but that is somewhat understated, as it takes into account outward migration to the Middle East.

Ethnically 74% of the population is Sinhalese and speak Sinhala, the national language; 18% is Tamil (people of south Indian origin) and speak the Tamil language, an "official" language since 1978. About 70% of the Tamils are "Ceylon Tamils"—citizens whose ancestors have lived in Sri Lanka

for many generations and who have full voting rights. Most live in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, but Ceylon Tamils are found in Colombo and throughout the island.

The other 30% of the Tamil population are composed of "Indian Tamils," whose ancestors were brought from south India in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to work on the tea and rubber plantations. Most were disenfranchised in Sri Lanka by legislation passed in 1948. Because India also refused to recognize them as citizens, the Indian Tamils were considered "stateless." A 1964 agreement with India provided for repatriation of many to India and the granting of Sri Lankan citizenship to others on a 60-40 ratio. That agreement has expired, however, and the ultimate fate of those who did not receive either Sri Lankan or Indian citizenship—some several hundred thousand—still remains to be determined.

Other minority groups include the Moors (i.e., Sri Lankan Muslims) (7%), Eurasians, and Malays. Most Sinhalese are Buddhists; most Tamils are Hindus. Christians constitute 7.5% of the population, most of whom are Roman Catholic. Christians can be found in both the Sinhalese and Tamil communities.

Public Institutions

Over 450 years of foreign presence on the island (Portuguese, then Dutch, then British) has left its mark on Sri Lanka's government, administrative, and judicial institutions. Sri Lanka became independent in 1948 after over 100 years as a British colony. It initially opted for dominion status in the Commonwealth like nearby India and Pakistan. But, unlike India and Pakistan, it retained dominion status until 1972 when the island was formally proclaimed a democratic re-

public, and the office of Governor General was converted to a ceremonial Presidency. During that period, real power was vested in Parliament and in a Prime Minister under the British pattern. The 1972 constitution proclaimed Sinhala the official language (with some provision for the use of Tamil) and Buddhism the foremost religion (with religious freedom guaranteed to all).

Following its overwhelming electoral victory in 1977, the United National Party (UNP) government decided to revamp the constitution more along continental than British lines. The 1978 constitution established an executive (and active) Presidency, abolished the upper house of the legislature, and provided for a system of proportional representation as the basis for future parliamentary elections. The 1978 constitution also elevated Tamil to the status of an official language.

An executive President elected for a 6-year term serves as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, chief of state, and head of government. The position is based largely on the French model. The President appoints and heads a Cabinet of Ministers which is responsible to a 168-seat unicameral legislature. The legislature will be increased to 196 seats in the future. The President's chief lieutenant, the Prime Minister, is the leader of the ruling party in Parliament.

In the fall of 1982 with still over a year to go on his 6-year term, the President sought reelection to another 6-year term, the equivalent of a "snap" election to the Presidency for which the constitution had to be amended. He won with nearly 53% of the popular vote in a voter turnout of nearly 80% and so will serve until 1989, his new term having begun on February 4, 1983.

Also in the fall of 1982 the President and his party decided to renew the mandate of the parliament elected in 1977. They chose to put a constitutional referendum to voters that extended the life of the sitting Parliament for a further 6 years rather than to hold new general elections then or in 1983. The referendum attracted the support of nearly 54% of the 70% of eligible

voters who turned out in December 1982 with the result that the Parliament will continue to sit until August 1989. The ruling UNP also won the majority of parliamentary by-elections that were held in May 1983 and October 1984. It retains a more than two-thirds majority in Parliament, sufficient to amend the constitution by a straight party vote.

Communal tension in Sri Lanka has remained high since July 1983 when the worst communal violence in the country's post-independence history occurred. Following the killing of 13 members of an Army patrol (all Sinhalese) by Tamil terrorists fighting for a separate Tamil state in the North and East, Sinhalese mobs took to the streets of Colombo and then throughout Sinhalese-majority areas, attacking Tamils and their property. Order was restored after a week of violence. This violence highlighted and deepened the gulf between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities, a gulf that the government tried to bridge through an All-Party Conference. It met intermittently throughout 1984 but failed to find a solution to the country's communal problem. In the meantime, terrorist attacks on the security forces in the North and East steadily escalated in number and severity. Government counter-measures have not proven effective in stemming the terrorist threat but have produced considerable hardship for the local civilian population, as well as charges of human rights abuses on the part of Sri Lankan Government security forces. Until some sort of settlement of the ethnic question is reached, the country will continue to be "troubled."

Sri Lanka's legal system reflects the interplay of cultural influences. The criminal law is fundamentally of British origin. The basic system of civil law, a legacy of the Dutch, is Roman-Dutch; but personal law (marriage, divorce, inheritance, etc.) is unique to each ethnic community. Thus, Hindus, Christians, Moslems, and Buddhists

have their own family codes. The judiciary is based on the British model.

Sri Lanka's judiciary consists of a Supreme Court which is also authorized to give advisory opinions; a Court of Appeals; a High Court; and a number of subordinate courts. The Supreme Court composed of a Chief Justice and 6-10 associate justices has original jurisdiction on all constitutional matters as well as election petitions, breach of parliamentary privilege, protection of fundamental rights, and other matters over which Parliament has legislative power.

The Sri Lanka Administrative Service is directly descended from the highly regarded colonial Ceylon Civil Service. Each ministry is run by a secretary, usually a career civil servant, who provides continuity as ministers and governments change. The country is divided into 25 districts, each headed by a Government Agent (G.A.) responsible for administering all government activities in the district. In colonial days the G.A. was virtually overlord of a district; today democracy has brought an increased concern for public opinion and socially responsible administration. An innovation of the government elected in 1977 was the introduction of a system of District Ministers, a senior M. P. usually not from the district, who oversees development efforts in the district.

Arts, Science, and Education

Sri Lanka's artistic and intellectual life is lively in some areas. Sri Lanka has six universities: one in Colombo; two within a 10-mile radius of Colombo; one some 15 miles from Colombo in Katubedde, Moratuwa; one in Peradeniya (near Kandy) with an adjacent campus; and one in Jaffna. The country also has two university colleges. Both arts and sciences are taught. Facilities include three medical schools and one university devoted entirely to science and technology which is now developing a TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) department. The Institute of Aesthetic Studies is a department of the University of Kelaniya located near



Aerial view of Colombo Harbor (above); Hambantota Fishing Harbor (below).



Colombo. Instruction includes art, crafts, music, and dance.

The Ministry of Education operates 21 teacher training colleges; of these, 4 train teachers to teach English as a second language and 17 cover other areas. The Ministry of Higher Education directs 8 polytechnic and 14 junior technical institutes. Curricula and direction at all educational levels are increasingly related to Sri Lanka's development.

The Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority, established in 1968 as the National Science Council, implements central government science policies. The Sri Lanka Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research (CISIR) is an autonomous, non-profit, industrial research institute, established by the government in 1955.

The Tea Research Institute established in 1925, the Rubber Research Institute established in 1910, and the Coconut Research Institute established in 1971 are all government non-profit organizations.

Private schools teach Eastern and Western dance and music. The country has several theaters, a major museum, and many specialized societies. Few art galleries exist, but interest is active in painting, batik, jewelry, sculpture, and indigenous handicrafts. A national dance troupe performs, and interest in a national theater and national culture is generally strong. An active and healthy interest also flourishes in Western music, art, and drama. English-language plays are performed intermittently in Colombo, and drama groups welcome foreign members. Concerts of Eastern and Western music are also given regularly, and Colombo has an amateur symphony orchestra that welcomes foreign musicians. Foreign visiting artists regularly perform with the orchestra or give solo performances.

Commerce and Industry

Compared with the many developing countries in the region, Sri Lanka's economic potential is high. The island has rich agricultural and

mineral resources and is surrounded by a bountiful sea. Population pressures are less severe than in neighboring areas, and its per capita income, about \$300 annually (1983), is among the highest in the South Asian subcontinent.

Agriculture remains the economic base and accounts for about 28% of the gross national product. Tea, rubber, and coconuts are principal cash crops and the source of more than 50% of export earnings. Rice is the major domestic foodgrain crop. Improved seeds and yields recently have significantly reduced the need for rice imports.

Industrial production has grown substantially in recent years and now accounts for about 18% of GNP.

The United National Party government has undertaken to reverse many basic economic policies followed by all previous governments since independence. Most significantly, the government has reduced its rice subsidy program and is relying more heavily on the private sector and on private market forces in promoting economic development. With the offer of considerable international assistance from both multilateral and bilateral aid donors, the government has succeeded in increasing the rate of economic growth to an average 5.5% annually. Increased foreign investment, the huge Mahaweli development scheme now beginning to yield results, and the free trade zone in the Colombo area have helped reduce the country's serious unemployment problem.

Sri Lanka has a chronic current account deficit in its external payments because exports have failed to keep pace with imports. The ambitious development program, since 1977, has been accompanied by large budget deficits and cost of living increases averaging about 15% annually. As a result, the rupee has continued to depreciate against most major currencies.

Import liberalization, part of the 1977-78 economic reforms, eliminated the scarcities and black-market activities which used to plague the island. The government's economic priorities are now

to bring prices under better control, diversify and expand exports, increase national savings, and maintain the quality of life of its people. Although shortages of basic food items no longer occur, imported products on the local market are often expensive. Incoming personnel should consult post before arrival on consumables—food and household items—which are appropriate to import and stock as part of their consumables allowance.

Transportation

Automobiles

Despite such problems as heavy traffic (bicycles, bullock carts, other vehicles, and pedestrians), lack of spare parts, and indifferent servicing, staff members rely on automobiles for transportation within and outside Colombo. Sri Lankan roads are generally narrow and inadequately maintained.

The major Japanese manufacturers (Mitsubishi, Nissan, Toyota) are well represented in Sri Lanka. Ford (Australia, Germany, UK), Peugeot, Volkswagen and British Leyland have local dealerships. Parts and servicing are most readily available for the Japanese vehicles. Heavy-duty tires, batteries and suspensions, tropical radiators, air-conditioning and extra undercoating against rust are worthwhile investments. Catalytic converters on newer models should be removed, since unleaded gasoline is not sold. The highest-rated gasoline is about 93 octane. Most trucks and four-wheel-drive vehicles burn diesel.

As in England, traffic moves on the left. Right-hand-drive cars are generally required by the Government of Sri Lanka. Left-hand-drive vehicles can be imported by Embassy employees but must be exported upon the completion of the employee's tour of duty. Cable or write the general services officer immediately regarding the automobile you intend to ship. Keep in mind that a right-hand-drive car is preferable. Delivery of cars ordered from Japan or Europe can take up to 5 months. Automobiles can be ordered and received faster from Singapore but at higher prices.

Duty-free prices for right-hand-drive Japanese vehicles purchased locally start at less than \$4,000 for sedans and at \$7,000 for four-wheel-drive vehicles (based on September 1985 U.S. dollar to Japanese yen exchange rate).

See Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property and Customs, Duties, and Passage for more information on personally owned vehicles.

Current (1983) regulations allow foreign affairs agencies to fund shipment to the U.S. of foreign-made/purchased autos. However, such vehicles must meet U.S. safety and environmental standards before entry.

The Personnel Office will assist in obtaining a local drivers license and the General Services Office will assist in obtaining vehicle registration. No fees are required. Sri Lanka does not recognize U.S. or other foreign car insurance. Third-party liability insurance is compulsory in Sri Lanka. Insurance policies are available only through the government-owned and -operated Sri Lanka Insurance Corporation and the National Insurance Corporation. Comprehensive coverage starts at about \$100 a year for compact cars.

The Mission provides temporary transportation to and from work for newly arrived personnel whose vehicles have not yet arrived.

Local

Satisfactory and inexpensive three- and four-wheeled metered taxi service is available in Colombo.

Regional

Vehicles with drivers can be rented for excursion trips. Foreigners rarely use the overcrowded and poorly maintained government-owned bus system. Private buses offer little improvement. The railway system, also a government enterprise, provides reasonably satisfactory travel to a few points of interest on the island. First-class travel, although somewhat rigorous and limited, should be used whenever possible. Second-class accommodations are frequently the best available.

Communications

Telephone and Telegraph

Telephones are installed in all U.S. Government-owned and -leased houses. Service is poor due to frequent breakdowns caused by age and weather conditions. An annual fee of Rs. 900 (U.S. \$33) is levied on each number in addition to monthly fees. Long-distance service and international direct-dial service are available to all points in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, Japan, Europe, and the U.S. provided an advance deposit has been made.

The Embassy has a direct-dial telephone available to American personnel for official calls and for personal calls on a reimbursable basis. Cost is currently Rs. 74 (U.S. \$2.72) per minute to the U.S. and to several foreign capitals. Individuals can have direct-dial systems installed in their homes for a refundable deposit of Rs. 5,000 (U.S. \$184).

Telegraph and cable service, available day and night, is satisfactory.

Mail and Pouch

Airmail service to and from the U.S. via international mail averages 8-10 days. The cost for sending an international airmail letter to the U.S. is currently Rs. 9 (U.S. \$33) per 10 grams and Rs. 5 for each additional 10 grams. Post cards are Rs. 7 for airmail. The Embassy's international mailing address is as follows:

American Embassy
P.O. Box 106
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

The State Department pouch facilities are available to all American U.S. Government employees and their immediate families serving in Sri Lanka. USAID contract personnel can use the pouch to send or receive official enveloped mail (maximum 2 pounds). U.S. citizen contractors are allowed personal letter mail (maximum 1 pound). Merchandise parcels, magazines, or newspapers are not authorized for contractors. Airmail letters are sent to and received from the U.S. three times a week through the State Department pouch. The approximate transit time for letters

from Colombo to Washington, D.C. and vice versa is 8-10 days.

Postal delivery from Washington, D.C. to west coast destinations averages an extra 5-7 days. Airmail letters sent through the pouch cost \$.22 U.S. postage per half ounce. The correct mailing address for letter mail is:

Name of addressee
Department of State—Colombo
Washington, D.C. 20520

For subscriptions to magazines, newspapers, and packages, even those weighing only a few ounces, use ZIP code 20521.

American employees of U.S. Government agencies and their immediate families in Sri Lanka are authorized to receive magazines, newspapers, parcels, etc. through the State Department's surface pouch airlift facilities. The pouches are airlifted to Colombo once a week. Parcels mailed in the U.S. take about 6-8 weeks to arrive in Colombo. The maximum weight for any package is 40 pounds, and it must not exceed 24 inches in length or 62 inches length and girth combined. Unauthorized items such as liquids, perishables, firearms, explosives, or fragile items cannot be pouched.

The Embassy's telex address is AMEMB CE 0803/21305.

Radio and TV

Sri Lanka initiated TV transmission in 1978 and now has two stations. Programs can be seen from 5 pm until after 11 pm. Some midday programming can also be seen on Sundays. The programs on both channels consist of locally produced shows in English, Sinhala, and Tamil and reruns of U.S. and U.K. serials in English. Regular, nightly news programs are broadcast in all three languages at different times.

As Sri Lanka uses the PAL system of color TV, U.S. sets cannot operate here. Black-and-white and color TV sets are available locally through the duty-free complex. Prices compare favorably with those in the U.S.

Most U.S. personnel have videotape equipment at post—mainly

VHS. Some personnel have the U.S. system and receive tapes from the U.S. Many belong to local tape clubs which rent tapes (VHS/PAL system only) at reasonable prices. The Employees' Recreation Association (AERAC) also has a tape club, which employees may join, which has NTSC (U.S. System) VHS tapes.

Radio broadcasting operates 17½ hours daily, 7 days weekly. Programs offered by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) cover local and international subjects and include a great deal of Western music, especially on FM. SLBC broadcasts in FM stereo during the evening. Programing and schedules follow the British format, and some BBC programs and news features are relayed on local channels. Broadcasting is in English, Sinhala, and Tamil on short- and mediumwave and FM frequencies. Many interesting and informative programs are presented. Reasonably good worldwide radio reception is available on a shortwave receiver. Electrical equipment operates on 240v, 50 Hz.

If you enjoy listening to music, bring a record player and/or tape recorder as well as records, compact discs, prerecorded and blank tapes, and cartridge and needle replacements. The latter are scarce locally.

A variety of radios with cassette players are available locally as are prerecorded cassettes. Most are of Japanese origin. Prices vary, depending on the make's popularity.

Newspapers, Magazines and Technical Journals

Library facilities in Colombo are limited but improving. The American Center library facilities are designed to meet the needs of Sri Lankan students and academics. The Colombo municipal library system has some 123,000 titles in English at any one time and subscribes to some 400 English-language journals and newspapers. The British Council's large 52,000-volume library includes a good selection of fiction. It subscribes to about 150 periodicals and newspapers. The Colombo Swimming Club operates a small library offering book selections to both children and adult members. Some local bookstores "rent"—i.e., sell

and buy back—paperback books at a new cost to the user of about 10%. The Community Liaison Office (CLO) has a fair selection of donated books and paperbacks. Some relatively expensive current paperbacks are available at the large hotel bookshops. Join a book club in the U.S. for a continuing supply of books.

Colombo newsstands sell current international editions of *Time* and *Newsweek*. The *International Herald Tribune* and the *Asian Wall Street Journal* are also available commercially. Other American magazines are occasionally sold. Many personnel at post subscribe to favorite magazines and use Department mail facilities (ZIP code 20521) even though transit time is 4–6 weeks. The Embassy and USIS subscribe to the *International Herald Tribune* and circulate copies among staff.

Mildew, silverfish, and termites are a serious threat to books unless they are kept in air-conditioned rooms. Do not bring valuable volumes.

Health and Medicine

Medical Facilities

The Embassy's Health Unit, staffed by an American Foreign Service nurse, is on the first floor of the Chancery. It is open to official personnel during regular working hours. The Health Unit provides consultations and treatment for minor illness or injury, immunizations, assistance with medical referrals and evacuations, and supervision of the Embassy's preventive health program.

A privately owned "nursing home" serves most official Americans as a hospital. (Nursing home is a British term for a facility comparable to a U.S. community hospital.) The matron and nursing supervisors are British-trained. This facility can adequately handle most simple emergencies, uncomplicated obstetrics, and routine medical problems. Minor surgical and gynecological procedures can

also be performed. Personnel with medical problems requiring more sophisticated treatment are evacuated to the nearest adequate medical facility. Bangkok is the current primary evacuation point.

Some private physicians are board-certified, both in the U.K. and the U.S. The Health Unit has a file of some physicians in each field. The Foreign Service nurse assists persons into the local health care system. Fees for medical care and treatment are reasonable.

Have as much dental work as possible done before arrival. Some American community members have seen local dentists with satisfactory results. Orthodontic or other specialized dental work can sometimes be done if you provide complete diagnosis and equipment.

Community Health

Gastrointestinal disease is the major health problem. Diarrhea is the most common illness among Americans living in the subcontinent, mainly due to contaminated food and water. City water is not potable and should be filtered and boiled for 10 minutes. Bring a large, inexpensive container to boil water.

Thoroughly cook all meat before eating. Wash and disinfect vegetables and fruits with a Chlorox or iodine solution.

Sri Lanka has many kinds of insects. Mosquitoes carry malaria, dengue fever, and filariasis. Flies carry filth that causes such endemic diseases as cholera and typhoid. Bring a good supply of insecticides, pest strips, insect repellants, and fly swatters.

Preventive Measures

Pharmaceutical supplies are not always available locally, so bring an adequate supply of first-aid materials, aspirin, vitamins, birth control pills, sunscreens, or other necessary items. You may receive regularly used prescription medicines for chronic illnesses via diplomatic pouch by prior arrangement with a druggist.

Prophylactic injections against rabies are administered at post as rabies is common in many animals in Sri Lanka.

Snakes, both poisonous and non-poisonous, are found in Sri Lanka. Yards and lawns around houses must be maintained by keeping grass cut and clearing leaves, which helps to deter nesting of snakes. Parents with small children must exercise special caution as to safe play areas outdoors. The Health Unit maintains a stock of snake bite serum, which, if needed, is best administered in a hospital setting.

Employment for Spouses and Dependents

Due to current Sri Lankan Government regulations, it is difficult for diplomatic spouses to work on the local economy. An effort is underway, however, to negotiate a bilateral agreement regarding the local employment of spouses. Even should such agreement be negotiated, salaries for professional positions in Sri Lanka are not likely to pay more than \$300 per month for full-time employment.

The Embassy is committed to providing as many full-time, part-time and single project contract opportunities for spouses as is possible within existing resources and regulations. During the past year the Mission has employed two spouses as part-time community liaison officers sharing a full-time, part-time, intermittent, temporary (PIT) position, one spouse as full-time secretary for the administrative officer and regional security officer, one spouse as full-time mailroom supervisor at AID and one spouse as full-time Acting Legal Advisor at AID. One spouse is also currently employed as a part-time Educational Advisor at the U.S Educational Foundation (Fulbright Commission) and several other spouses have been employed during the year as part-time secretaries for special projects. Additional spouses have been contracted to conduct the Mission's retail price survey and other periodic reports.

All Mission elements, as well as the Commissary (AERAC), provide



Sri Lanka offers a wide range of possibilities for the camera enthusiast, such as this upcountry waterfall.

as many jobs as funds permit for teenage summer employment.

Certain talents which lend themselves to free-lance employment are likely to be quite well-received by the local and expatriate communities. Currently a Mission spouse is doing speech therapy on a free-lance basis. TESL teachers can also usually find work. Writing and

editing are other possibilities. All free-lance employment demands an extra degree of effort on the individual's part.

Concerning the status of current opportunities for both spouse and teenage employment please contact the administrative officer or the CLO.

The map illustrates the urban layout of Colombo, Sri Lanka, with a focus on the locations of U.S. diplomatic and cultural institutions. A north arrow is positioned in the upper left corner. The map shows the following features:

- Geographical Features:** Beira Lake is located in the central-northern part of the map. The Gulf of Mannar is to the west.
- Transportation:** Two railway stations are marked: one near Beira Lake and another further east. Major roads include Galle Rd., Main St., Jampettah St., Messenger St., Moor St., St. Sebastian Canal, Sri Saddharma Mavata, Meertamulla Rd., Kolonnawa Rd., Dematagoda Rd., Meradana Rd., Deans Rd., Ward Pl., Kynsey Pl., Barnes Pl., Gregory's Rd., Independence Ave., Baudhaloka Ave., Reid Ave., Sir Ernest De Silva Mavata, De Mel Lane, Kollupitiya Rd., and Corta Rd.
- Key Locations:**
 - U.S. Embassy:** Marked with a black dot on the western coast, near the Gulf of Mannar.
 - American Center:** Marked with a black dot near the intersection of Reid Ave. and Sir Ernest De Silva Mavata.
 - AID, USIS, and VOA Office Building:** Marked with a black square near the western coast, south of the U.S. Embassy.
- Other Labels:** Queen Elizabeth Quay, Olcott Mavata, Union Pl., Albert Crescent, and various other street names like Jampettah St., Messenger St., Moor St., St. Sebastian Canal, Sri Saddharma Mavata, Meertamulla Rd., Kolonnawa Rd., Dematagoda Rd., Meradana Rd., Deans Rd., Ward Pl., Kynsey Pl., Barnes Pl., Gregory's Rd., Independence Ave., Baudhaloka Ave., Reid Ave., Sir Ernest De Silva Mavata, De Mel Lane, Kollupitiya Rd., and Corta Rd.

6271 12-85 STATE (INR/GE)

American Embassy

Colombo

Colombo is on a flat coastal plain on the southwestern side of the island. The city grew up around the harbor, which has been expanded by a breakwater. The main business section is near the port in what is known as the Fort area (the old fort walls no longer remain). The buildings in this area are typically British and Dutch colonial, and the streets are generally congested. Parking is a problem. The Pettah, or traditional bazaar area adjoining the main business area, consists of a series of narrow, crowded streets and small shops and stalls.

Main residential areas are south and southeast of the business area and are generally pleasant. Flowering trees line the streets and old mansions with lovely gardens lend an exotic, tropical air.

The Post and Its Administration

The U.S. Mission comprises officers and employees of the Department of State, USAID, USIS, the Department of Defense, Voice of America (VOA), and Peace Corps. The Library of Congress maintains an office staffed by Foreign Service national employees. The Embassy's Administrative Section provides general services functions to all Mission agencies.

The American Ambassador is the highest ranking U.S. official, followed by the DCM. The USAID Mission is headed by a director, and the staff includes a deputy director, executive officer, comptroller, and some 20 other program and project officers. USIS staff includes the PAO, information officer, administrative assistant and cultural affairs officer. VOA has a resident engineer, and a representative heads the Peace Corps office. The

Mission also has two community liaison officers who provide a variety of services to all members of the official community. The CLO is located in the new Chancery building.

The new Chancery is at 210 Galle Road near the junction of Galle Road and Kollupitiya, telephone 548007. All State Department offices, the Defense attache, the Consular Section and the AERAC Commissary are housed in the new Chancery. USAID, USIS (PAO and information officer) and VOA are housed in the former chancery compound at 44 Galle Road, telephone 21271. The two office building sites are 3 blocks apart, and about 1 mile from downtown Colombo.

The American Center (library), telephone 91461, is at 39 Earnest de Silva Mawatha, a 10-minute drive from the Chancery. The Cultural Affairs Office (CAO) is at the American Center, as is the U.S. Educational Foundation (Fulbright Commission). USIS maintains an American Center in Kandy under a Sri Lankan director at 17 Malabar Street, telephone 08-24129.

The Peace Corps Office is located at 50/5 Siripa Road, telephone 581472, about a 10-minute drive from the Chancery.

The U.S. is the protecting power for the Israel Interests Section, which maintains offices in an office building separate from the Embassy Chancery.

The Embassy supervises the American Consular Agency in Male, Republic of Maldives, which is at Mandhu Eduruge, Male, telephone Male 2581, telex number 66028. Direct supervision is in the hands of the DCM. Most Embassy diplomatic officers are also accredited to the Republic of the Maldives.

The USAID Mission administers the U. S. Foreign Assistance Program in Sri Lanka, established in 1950, which as of September 30, 1984 had provided assistance totalling over \$850 million in development, food and emergency loans and grants, and a housing guaranty. The current strategy of the USAID program is to support Sri Lanka's development goals by improving small farm productivity, creating off-farm employment and developing the Mahaweli region. Currently averaging about \$80 million annually, the program consists of development assistance (projects financed with concessional loans and grants); PL-480 Title I assistance, which provides concessional loans to purchase U.S. wheat; a PL-480 Title II program administered by the U. S. voluntary organization CARE, which provides nutritional supplements for primary school children, infants, and mothers; and a low-income housing guaranty program.

International flights arrive and depart from Katunayake Airport, about 20 miles northwest of the city (1 hour by car). New arrivals should notify the Personnel Office in advance as to date and time of arrival. Housing arrangements will be made. Write to the administrative officer and CLO as soon as the assignment is firm, giving family size, any special requirements, and travel plans.

If you are not met on arrival, take a taxi to the Chancery. As of this writing, the taxi fare from the airport to the Embassy is Rs. 300 (U.S. \$12). You can exchange money at the airport bank.

The Chancery workweek is Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. A Marine Security Guard is on duty 24 hours daily.

Housing

Temporary Quarters

Most arriving personnel move immediately or within a few days into their permanent quarters. However, for those who must stay in a hotel, the Lanka Oberoi, Intercontinental, Meridien, Taj Samudra, Ramada, Holiday Inn, or the Galle Face Hotel (higher rates), the Havelock Tour Inn and the Hotel Renuka for less expensive accommodations are the ones most frequently used. Only the Havelock Tour Inn accepts pets.

Permanent Housing

All housing in Colombo is U.S. Government-owned or -leased and government-furnished. New arrivals usually are provided suitable permanent quarters well within the period of temporary living allowances.

Housing is assigned on the basis of agency, representational responsibilities, and family size. All government-owned and -leased residences are authorized air-conditioners for family living and dining areas, occupied bedrooms, and food storage room. Kitchens and servants quarters are not air-conditioned. The government-owned residences for senior officers are:

The Ambassador's residence—Jefferson House—is in one of the better sections of Colombo, about 2½ miles from the Chancery on 1½ acres of land with a garden of tropical trees, spices, flowers, shrubs, and lawns. This is a charming, old, two-story house with a reception hall, small drawing room, dining room with a table that seats 24, two reception rooms, guest bathrooms, a large veranda downstairs, and a terrace. The kitchen, pantry/store-room, servants quarters, laundry, and double garage are located along a one-story wing extending to the rear. The upstairs has four bedrooms, three baths, a sitting room, and a storeroom.

The residence is fully furnished with basic furniture including lamps. Bring personal pieces and pictures. The supply of glassware, china, silverware, kitchen utensils, table linens, and bed linen is adequate for representational use. The residence is equipped with a

complete modern kitchen, a washer and dryer, and an emergency generator.

The DCM's home is located about 5 blocks from the Ambassador's residence. Its lot is slightly over ¼ acre and includes an attractive garden. The ground floor consists of a large entrance hall, a moderate-sized drawing room, an enclosed veranda/sitting room, a guest bedroom with bath and a powder room, a large dining room, pantry, storeroom, kitchen, two-car garage, and servants quarters. Upstairs are three bedrooms, three baths, a study, a small servants room, and spacious hallway opening on a second enclosed veranda overlooking the front lawn and the street. Bring decorations, pictures, and small electrical appliances. The house has gas and electric stoves, two refrigerators, two freezers, a washer and dryer, and an emergency generator.

The two-story house assigned to the PAO is near the Chancery and USIS. The grounds include a small garden. The ground floor consists of a large drawing room, small den, large dining room, bath, kitchen, garage, laundry room, and servants quarters. Upstairs are five bedrooms, a den, three baths, two small storerooms, and balconies on three sides. Closet space is ample. FBO provides basic furniture; USIS furnishings include a limited supply of kitchenware, china, glassware, silver, and linen. Plan to supplement these and bring decorations.

Furnishings

All basic furniture and major appliances are provided in government-owned and -leased quarters; i.e., water filters, stove, refrigerator, freezer, washer, dryer, air-conditioners, vacuum cleaners, and floor polishers. The Embassy also provides transformers as required, as well as gardening equipment. Draperies and slipcovers are provided as required. Material may be purchased locally. Bring all small appliances, preferably 220v (radios, phonographs, iron, mixers, toasters, etc.).

Most appliances (220v) are available in Colombo's duty-free shop. The shop also sells TV and VTR equipment suitable for local use.

All quarters have running water, toilets, and baths. Hot water is provided by individual heaters (geysers) in kitchen, bath, and laundry. Telephones are available in houses at inexpensive monthly rates, but connections for new leases are hard to obtain and take time.

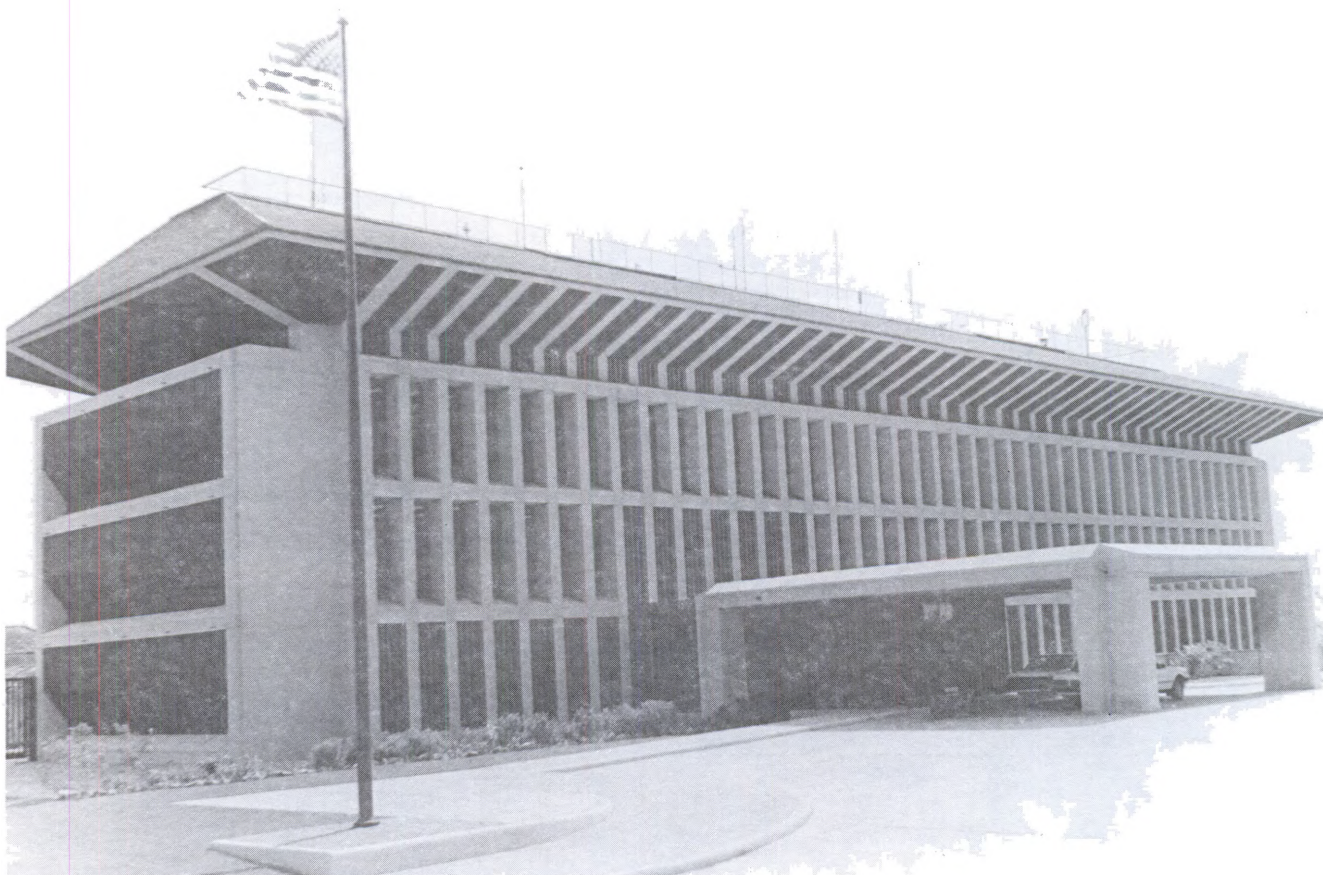
Utilities and Equipment

Electricity is 240v, 50-cycle, AC and is fairly reliable, although voltage fluctuates considerably. Phonographs and tape recorders must be adjusted to 50 cycles. Most 110v appliances without electrical motors can be used with transformers. Plugs in use are British standard three-pin and are available locally for adapting electrical appliances.

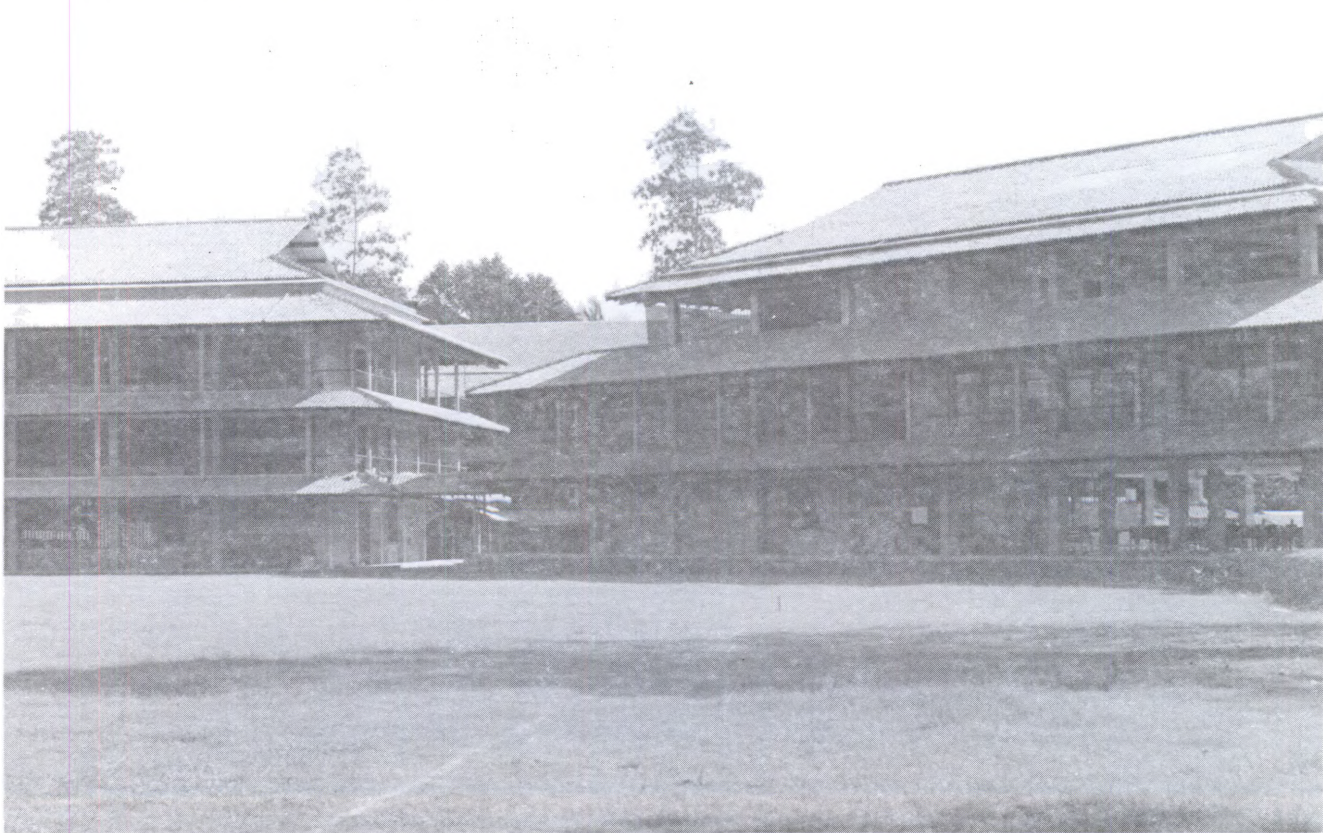
Food

A variety of seasonal, fresh fruits and vegetables are available at reasonable prices. Some vegetables are similar to those in temperate climates but may not have the flavor of those in the U.S. These include potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce, cauliflower, leeks, green beans, carrots, eggplant, cucumbers, spinach, parsley, beets, cabbage, celery, onions, okra, bean sprouts, squash, pumpkin, green peppers, and occasionally broccoli, zucchini, and brussel sprouts. Soak all raw or unpeeled vegetables in a disinfectant to reduce the danger of amoebic or other parasitic infestation. Milton, a satisfactory brand-name disinfectant, is sometimes available. Chlorox may also be used to soak vegetables.

Crab, shrimp, and fresh fish are sold in the local markets. Lobster is available, but expensive. Local chicken, beef, and pork are of a lesser quality but are generally available and reasonably priced. Considerably more expensive imported chicken, beef, and lamb of good quality are also available in the local supermarkets. The AERAC commissary has recently purchased a walk-in freezer, and American meats, cheeses, vege-



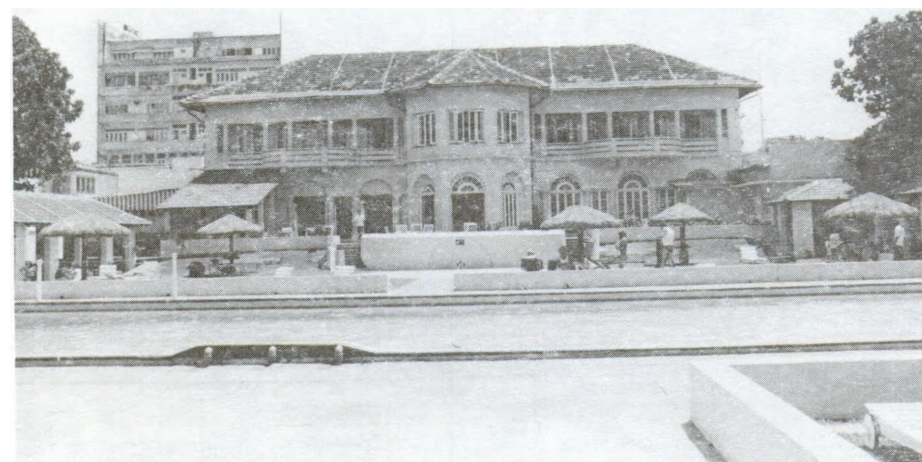
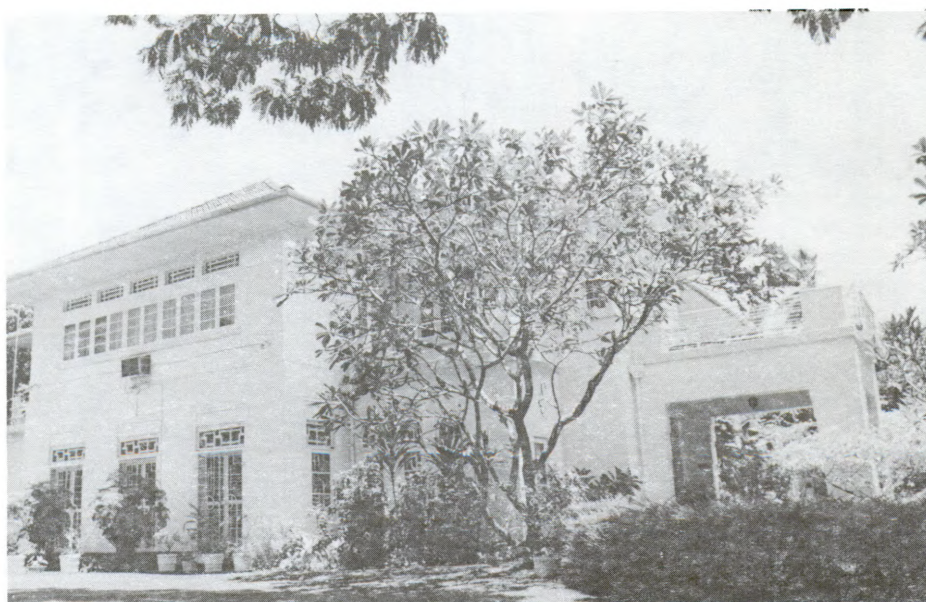
The Chancery, completed in the fall of 1984, is located at 210 Galle Road (above). The new Overseas Children's School campus, completed in 1985, is located on a five-acre site on the outskirts of Colombo (below).





The Ambassador's Residence.

The Deputy Chief of Mission's Home.



Colombo Swimming Club.

tables, etc., will be available year round.

Colombo now has three supermarkets which stock a number of Western items at prices ranging from moderate to much more expensive than comparable items in the U. S. Locally produced pasta products, flour, vinegar, and salt are of poor quality. Local cheese, eggs, cream, and milk (pasteurized and tuberculin-tested) are of acceptable quality. Baby foods, including powdered formulas, precooked cereals, and strained foods are generally available, but expensive. Mission personnel can purchase a selected range of food items at the small AERAC commissary, although stocks of certain items (e.g., snack foods) are usually sold out quickly. Special needs by case lots can be ordered about six times a year.

The commissary, operated by the AERAC Board of Directors, sells liquor, wine, beer, soft drinks, cigarettes, coffee (ground and instant), baking needs, canned fruits and vegetables, crackers and cookies, nuts, cake and frosting mixes, oil, various flours and sugar, peanut butter, candy, olives, pickles, mayonnaise, salad dressings, spices, cereal, cocoa, powdered milk, pasta products, rice, jams, ketchup, mustard, vinegar, BBQ sauce, Worcestershire sauce, popcorn, snack foods, syrups, jello, pudding, pet food, paper products, cleaning supplies, insecticide, as well as wrapping paper, greeting cards, etc. Toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, hair spray, deodorant, and shaving cream are also available in a limited variety.

The store is open Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 2 pm and on Fridays from 8 am to 3:30 pm. Most families are members. A refundable deposit of \$200 per family or \$100 per single person is charged to join AERAC.

Personnel assigned to Colombo are presently authorized to ship additional consumables (6 FAM 162.5); however, write to the community liaison officer before making such a shipment. U. S. Government policy precludes shipment of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products as additional consumables. Mission personnel place group orders for dry goods and canned goods from the U. S. A 2-4 month

wait between placement of orders and delivery in Colombo is typical. New personnel wishing to place an order before arrival at post should write the administrative officer. Members may charge the cost of shipping individual orders to their consumables allowances provided that the shipments are made within the first 12 months of their tour, and that they do not exceed their shipping allowance.

Clothing

Clothing worn in Washington, D. C. during the hottest summer weeks is suitable year round in Colombo. Clothing can be ordered from the U.S., but transit time is usually 6 weeks-2 months.

A wide variety of sewing fabrics is available in Colombo (both cotton and polyester), but they may not please all tastes. Those who are serious sewers, should bring zippers, thread, and buttons. They can be purchased locally, but they are not up to U. S. standards. Trim, elastic, lace, snaps, etc., can all be purchased locally and are of reasonable quality, especially the lace. Most local dressmakers work in the customer's home and use his/her sewing machine. There are a few who work out of their own homes.

Drycleaning facilities are available, but only in the large Colombo hotels. Bring wash-and-wear items if possible to simplify cleaning, especially for children's clothing. Garment bags are useful for clothing protection. Extreme dampness during the monsoon season can cause clothes and shoes to mildew unless kept in air-conditioned rooms.

Embroidery handwork on clothing, lingerie, and table linen is done in several convents. Bring a supply of materials and embroidery thread if interested in such work.

Keep in mind that clothing will not last as long in Sri Lanka as in the U.S. The tropical climate and frequent laundering shortens the useful life of most clothing. Under-

wear, particularly with elastic, tends to wear out quickly.

Men. Morning dress is not required. The Ambassador and party wear dark business suits for presentation of credentials and for similar official occasions (using British terminology, this is referred to as lounge suit). Formal attire is used infrequently, perhaps once or twice a year, for such functions as the Marine Ball and the Valentine's Day Ball. Bush (i.e. slacks and square-bottom, lightweight shirts worn outside trousers) is appropriate for many social occasions. Bring one or two dark suits for evening wear. Hats are never worn. Office attire is more casual than that in Washington, D. C. A short-sleeved shirt and tie or a bush suit are most frequently worn. A sports jacket or suit may be suitable for calls.

For upcountry wear light wool suits, wool slacks, sweaters, and flannel shirts may be needed. In Nuwara Eliya the privately owned Hill Club requires men to wear jackets and ties to dinner and will provide them for a small rental fee to those who arrive without.

Locally made shirts, shorts, ties, and socks are generally unsatisfactory. Bring these from the U. S. Local tailoring of bush shirts, suits, and trousers is good, but local fabric is generally not as satisfactory as that available in the U.S. Bring fabrics for tailoring here.

Suggested items for a 2-year tour are: 2-4 lightweight suits; 3-5 bush suits; 4-6 casual trousers, washable; dinner jacket, white or black; cummerbund, black or color; 10 short-sleeved shirts; several long-sleeved shirts; 10 sport shirts; 1 or 2 dress shirts and socks, underwear, pajamas, and ties. Bring one pair of evening shoes and several more pairs for everyday use. Lightweight shoes and sandals are particularly desirable. Although some items are available locally (like golf shoes), it is better to bring needed tennis, golf, or any other sports shoes; two or more pairs of swimming trunks; and any other needed sports clothes.

Women. Living, working, and entertaining on a tropical island such as Sri Lanka, most women find that cool summerweight dresses and

skirts and blouses of cotton or cotton-blends are their most useful wardrobe standbys. Lightweight summer slacks are also worn by many women for shopping and sightseeing. Culottes or bermuda shorts are recommended for golf and are acceptable daytime wear, provided they are knee length. Sundresses and sleeveless dresses are also comfortable and acceptable for both day and evening. The only clothing item of limited use and acceptability is women's shorts, which are generally worn only on the tennis court or at a beach resort. Women are not expected to wear hosiery at any functions, social or business, although some women do wear hose to the office or for an indoor party.

Women's office attire in Sri Lanka is similar to that of a southern U.S. city, i.e., tailored dresses or skirts and blouses. A matching two-piece summer suit with a blouse, while certainly acceptable, is seldom seen in Sri Lanka due to the heat and humidity. Women's daytime wear for meetings, morning coffees, or luncheons is basically the same as office wear, although in general the dresses are less-tailored.

For those who like to play tennis or plan to take it up in Sri Lanka, U.S. tennis wear is appropriate on the tennis courts. Tennis outfits and good tennis shorts are at present not available in Sri Lanka, so bring tennis wear with you or plan to order it through a catalog. Swimming is also a popular; chlorine and saltwater are very hard on swimming suits, so bring two or three suits. The saltwater and chlorine are also hard on permed or processed hair; therefore, some women have found it useful to bring a swimming cap, especially if they swim daily for exercise.

Home entertaining is frequent in Sri Lanka and there are appreciably more occasions to "dress-up" than is the norm for most women living in Washington, D.C. However, dress for evening entertaining is seldom formal, and most women wear either short summer dresses, lightweight cocktail dresses or casual long dresses such as long

cotton sundresses or caftans. Since much evening entertainment is out-of-doors, many women find cotton or cotton-blends most comfortable for evening wear. However, for dinners indoors silk, rayon or polyester dresses are also comfortable, and in recent years cleaning facilities have improved appreciably in Colombo, and many women have had silk and rayon dresses cleaned at local hotels with good results. While few would suggest buying silk dresses or blouses for the Sri Lankan climate, those who already have some silk dresses will find that they can be put to good use.

There are perhaps two or three occasions a year where formal wear or very dressy attire may be called for in Sri Lanka. While at least one evening dress may be useful to have on hand, an alternative is to bring a pattern and some good material and have a long evening dress made by a local dressmaker. The principal occasions when a formal dress is useful are the Marine Ball in November and the Sri Lanka-American Society's Valentine Day Ball in February.

The amount of clothing to bring to Sri Lanka is really a matter of personal choice. However, two points that are useful to keep in mind are that clothes tend to wear out more quickly in a tropical climate and the same seasonal clothing is worn all year long.

Therefore, based upon use and personal need for variety, any numbers given may prove overly generous or conservative. However, a few suggested guidelines are: 4-6 casual daytime shopping dresses or a comparable number of casual skirts and blouses; several pairs of lightweight slacks; 6 or more office, meeting, coffee-day dresses or blouse-skirt outfits and about 8 outfits for informal evening wear (a mix of short and long summer-weight dresses). Concerning sportswear, the main point to keep in mind is that such items as good swimsuits and tennis dresses are not available locally and are therefore best bought in the U.S. On the other hand, beach cover-ups are available in most hotels at a very reasonable price. In terms of undergarments, bring a good supply of cotton underwear to post. A long slip is also useful.

Bring several pairs of well-made shoes for daytime wear and casual events, preferably leather or man-made material sandals, which are most comfortable in the heat, and tennis shoes and golf shoes. Evening sandals with medium to low heels are also needed. A pair of good walking shoes is useful for trips to the hill country. Close-toe high heels tend to be uncomfortable in Sri Lanka's climate. Satin or cloth covered shoes do not fare well and tend to deteriorate during the first rainy season. Corrective footwear or specially made shoes are not available in Colombo, but some personnel have had success in having ordinary shoes copied at a very reasonable price. When buying shoes to wear in Sri Lanka, remember that standing for several hours in the tropical climate makes feet swell. Therefore, low heels and open toes are generally the most comfortable. In terms of numbers, a minimum of 2 to 4 pairs of casual shoes, 4 pairs of comfortable sandals to wear with day or evening dresses and 1 or 2 pairs of formal shoes are recommended. A pair or two of tennis shoes and golf shoes, for those who play those sports, are also recommended.

When traveling up-country (altitude 4,000-6,500 feet) in Sri Lanka, warmer clothing is necessary. Generally, this means long-sleeved blouses, a sweater or two, heavier-weight slacks (corduroy, wool, or jeans) a raincoat or wind-breaker, and good walking shoes. Long-sleeved dresses and perhaps a shawl are comfortable for evenings in the hill country, as are pantsuits. Hosiery or tights are suggested for this cool climate. Warm sleepwear is also recommended.

Children. Young boys seldom wear long trousers in Sri Lanka. The Overseas Children's School requires inexpensive cotton uniforms which are made locally and are generally available at the school shop. The uniform for boys is a white short-sleeved shirt or white T-shirt with the school emblem, navy shorts, and regular white socks. Boys need extra T-shirts and several pairs of blue shorts for physical education.

White wash-and-wear shirts are not available locally, but cotton shirts are. T-shirts are available but in limited supply and of poor quality. The recommended supply would include 8 pairs of shorts; 8 T-shirts; 6 white shirts (for school uniform at the OCS); 6 navy blue shorts (for school uniform); 4-6 bathing suits; 1 dozen underpants; and 2 dozen pairs of white socks (for school uniform). Uniforms are required through Grade 9.

School uniforms for girls up to grade 8 are plain pinafore dresses in navy blue or a navy blue skirt and white T-shirt with the school emblem. Uniforms are not required for children in grades 8 and 9. Physical education uniforms are navy blue running shorts and white T-shirts for all children.

Pajamas for boys and girls should be of light-to-mediumweight cotton, plus a pair of flannel pajamas for up-country use. A few sweaters and slacks are good for up-country use.

Children's shoe needs are a problem. Locally made shoes can be ill-fitting. Recommended supply to bring for boys and girls: 2 pairs of school shoes, 2 pairs of tennis shoes, and 1 pair of dress shoes. Local sandals are adequate around the house. American shoes can be ordered as needed.

For infants: cloth diapers, night clothing, and a few undershirts and baby blankets for air-conditioned rooms are recommended. Also suggested are: a complete supply of baby bottles, sterilizers (preferably non-electric) or a Playtex disposable nursing kit, playpens, food grinder, and other accessories. Local rubber pants are of fair quality. Locally made rubber sheets are available but not flannel-covered waterproof mattress pads.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

The AERAC stocks a few deodorants and soaps, and some toiletries of limited selection are available on the local market. However, if you prefer a special brand, bring a supply of toiletries, cosmetics, home medicines, feminine personal needs, and sewing notions with you.

The following items of a quality equal to American brands are not consistently available in the local economy: lipsticks, nail polish, hand cream, baby soap and powder, razor blades, shaving cream, deodorant, and suntan lotion. Again, those who have special brand preferences should plan to order toiletries, baby needs and cosmetics either in consumables shipments or through AERAC. Consumables should also include a supply of nail polish, hair spray, lipstick, eye makeup, shampoo, hair conditioner, sanitary supplies, hair curlers, bobby pins, and other notions.

Before leaving the U.S., arrange for a regular supply of known needs in prescription salves and drugs. The Health Unit stocks a supply of drugs to meet immediate needs. Other pharmaceutical needs can be ordered from the U. S. A tour supply of first-aid needs such as cotton, Band-Aids, gauze, adhesive tape, antiseptic, and a 2-year supply of any patent medicine commonly used by the family are recommended; an alternative is to make mailing arrangements with a U. S. drugstore.

Some basic household supplies are available here, but bring a home repair kit. Saucepans, baking dishes, cake tins, frypans, and plastic kitchen containers are generally available but are not up to U. S. quality. Do bring a kitchen dish drainer; they are almost impossible to find here. Cutlery and glassware are available but expensive. An inexpensive, large pot for boiling water is an absolute necessity. This can be purchased locally or imported. A manual meat grinder is useful because locally ground meat is of poor quality. Local dishes and export-quality Noritake china are also available here at low prices.

Local products are available for cleaning bathtubs, wash basins, toilet bowls, and windows. Some Christmas decorations are available, but bringing a basic stock of such items is recommended. Consider an artificial Christmas tree as well. Stationery, bridge tallies, playing cards, candles, photographic supplies, silver and pewter polish, special entertaining needs, and needlework supplies should be

brought. Local pipe tobacco is available, and some brands can be ordered from Denmark, but bring an ample supply of favorite brands. Strong, inexpensive, local cigars are available.

Basic Services

Drycleaning facilities are available but only the large hotels offer acceptable service. Because of the warm climate, lightweight, washable clothing is very useful.

Local tailoring is available for men's casual bush shirts and trousers. Except for batiks, fabric selection is limited.

Dressmakers are available at reasonable fees for making women's and children's clothing and men's shirts. Normally, dressmakers prefer to work in their customers' homes and do not supply their own sewing machine, zippers, buttons, or thread. Those planning to hire a dressmaker or make their clothes, should bring a sewing machine, notions, and sewing supplies, and perhaps some basic patterns.

Shoe repair is done by hand and is adequate and inexpensive. Shoes, particularly sandals, can also be made inexpensively.

A few beauticians are familiar with Western styling. Hair coloring, frosting, and perming are available at some beauty parlors, which usually use British products. Personal supplies of hair products can be brought, and beauticians will use these if preferred.

Domestic Help

Most personnel employ domestic help. The average officer and spouse (either childless or with one child) often hire a combination cook/houseboy or a cook and a houseboy and a part-time gardener if the house has a garden. Total wages for these servants average about \$100-\$130 per month. Uniforms and medical bills are incidental expenses. A nursemaid (nanny) charges about \$60 a month.

An officer with two or more children probably will employ a full-time cook, a houseboy, a nursemaid for the children, a part-time gardener, and perhaps a sewing nanny one day a week. Total cost is about \$200 a month plus gratuities.

A senior officer and spouse (not the Ambassador or DCM) might employ a cook, two houseboys, laundry person, gardener, and general cleaner. The total monthly wages of these servants plus rations averages \$200-\$225 plus an estimated \$25-\$30 a month for gratuities, uniforms, etc.

A single person ordinarily would have a combination cook/houseboy and a part-time gardener. Total monthly wages average about \$75-\$85, plus an estimated \$5-\$10 for uniforms, gratuities, medical bills, etc. Some single personnel employ sewing nannies and laundry people on a weekly basis at an added cost of \$10-\$20 a month.

Some employees also hire drivers at an average salary of \$40 a month. The Embassy provides night guards at each residence as a deterrent to crime.

Religious Activities

English is spoken in many of the larger churches: Roman Catholic, Church of Sri Lanka (Episcopalian), Scots (Presbyterian), Baptist, Methodist, Christian Science, Mormon, Seventh-day Adventist, and Dutch Reformed. No Orthodox churches are available. Sri Lanka has no synagogue.

Education

Dependent Education

At Post. Children of most foreign diplomats and business persons resident in Colombo attend the Overseas Childrens School (OCS). At present, the school has an enrollment of over 600 children representing more than 40 nations. Originally established to cater to the needs of the British business community, the school has a strong Western orientation with the majority of textbooks in the primary and middle school now coming from the U.S. The school, offering classes from nursery through 12th grade, has some 75 teachers, of which about one-third are expatriates. The Headmaster (superintendent) until mid-1985 was British with considerable experience in the U.S.

education system (his wife, an American, was a teacher and served as coordinator for the International Baccalaureate program). An American assumed duties as Headmaster beginning with the 1985-86 school year.

The school, which at one time operated on a very limited budget, has made remarkable academic and financial strides since 1981. OCS is partially supported by grants from the Department's Office of Overseas Schools. OCS has just transferred to new buildings on a 5-acre campus owned by the school; more expatriate teachers are being recruited; teacher evaluations and training and curriculum development receive priority attention; and books, computers and other teaching aides are in good supply. The school is an active member in the Near East/South Asia Council of Overseas Schools and arranges for short-term consultants from the Council to address specific needs. OCS is also a member of the European Council of International Schools and the Association for Advancement of International Education. The school initiated the Iowa Tests in 1983 for grades 4 through 8, with test results the past 2 years being very good. Children participate in the British Ordinary Level Program in grades 9 and 10, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program in grades 11 and 12. International "O" level results for OCS students over the past few years have also been high.

Since the IB program was only initiated in 1984, there are no international exam results available to serve as a basis for comparison at the time this post report is being written. However, children completing school at OCS can be expected to compete favorably with their peers for entrance into college, with IB diploma graduates likely to have access to some of the top colleges. Transfer students are generally not accepted into grade 12 unless they have successfully completed grade 11 in an IB Program elsewhere. Facilities are available for the administration of the SAT and PSAT tests. OCS also offers a

good sports program and numerous other extracurricular activities.

The school offers French- and German-language classes for grades 10 through 12 only for students with prior background and exposure to those languages. Contingent on the level of participation, OCS plans to offer French and German as extracurricular activities for grades 5 and 6, and as elective subjects for grades 7 and 8 in the 1985-86 school year. The school offers classes in English as a second language for non-native speakers.

The school year consists of three terms: September through early December, January through March, and April through June. Start and end dates for the second and third terms may vary considerably from year to year because of the unpredictability of local lunar holidays which the school must observe. Parents should bring as detailed records as possible from the schools their children have previously attended. Complete records will help insure that children are quickly and properly placed.

The school does not have the professional resources to provide special attention to children with learning disabilities. Because of the physical layout of the new campus, the school is not able to admit children whose physical handicaps confine them to a wheel chair.

OCS requires a simple uniform for all children from the nursery level through grade 8. For boys this consists of navy blue shorts with a plain white buttoned shirt or a white OCS T-shirt. For girls, it consists of a plain pinafore dress of navy blue cotton or a navy blue skirt with a white OCS T-shirt. For physical education, all children are required to wear running shorts with T-shirts. Uniforms can be purchased locally.

For children in grades 9 through 12, OCS does not have specific dress requirements, although students must be presentably dressed, and upper grade girls are not allowed to come to school wearing short-shorts, halter tops or low-cut blouses. Most other informal wear is acceptable.

The at post educational allowance covers a one-time refundable deposit that must be paid when a child is first registered at OCS. The employee must sign an agreement

to return the refundable deposit to the U.S. Government before the refundable deposit is paid to the school. The allowance does not cover the refundable deposit for preschool or kindergarten, which for school year 1985-86 is about \$185.

Children of Mission personnel may also attend the Colombo International School, a private British school with 435 students from 41 countries. CIS was founded in 1982 and offers classes for students 2 to 18 years of age. The teacher/student ratio is 1 to 7. CIS has more expatriate teachers than any other school in Sri Lanka, a large proportion of whom are honors graduates of Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

CIS offers SAT, TOEFL, and achievement test classes to prepare students for admission to American universities. The average SAT, TOEFL, and achievement test scores received by CIS students to date are 580, 630, and 760 respectively.

Students at CIS are prepared for the London University "O" level and "A" level examinations. Students who pass the "A" level exams qualify for advanced placement in American universities.

Extracurricular activities are an important part of school life and sports, music and drama are included in the school program.

Questions on schools or enrollment should be directed to the Embassy administrative officer or the CLO.

Away From Post. Prior post reports recommended boarding schools in India. However, based on recent experience, the Mission can no longer recommend them. Parents considering away from post schooling for their children would more profitably examine educational options offered by boarding schools in Europe or the U.S.

Special Educational Opportunities

Universities in Sri Lanka offer courses leading to Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Oriental Studies, Arts, Science, Law, Engineering, Agriculture, and Medicine. Instruction is in Sinhala, Tamil, or English depending on

student demand. Courses are based on the British university system which concentrates on a major subject and allows few outside studies. Although foreigners are officially welcomed, no U.S. Government employees or dependents have attended in recent years.

The following universities are in Sri Lanka: University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, University of Kelaniya, University of Batticaloa, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, Ruhuna University College, and University of Jaffna.

Post Orientation Program

The post holds an annual (or semi-annual if necessary) 2½-day orientation program for all Mission employees and adult family members. Included are speakers from the various Mission agencies who explain the function of their agency in Sri Lanka, a Sri Lankan historian, and usually two Sri Lankan political speakers. The objective of this program is to provide a general knowledge of local politics and history to the newcomers as well as acquaint them with the Mission's programs and functions. Also included is a half-day trip to a local "village," where one can experience the various aspects of daily village life, which most newcomers find quite informative.

The post language program offers instruction in Sinhala to all interested American employees and their family members, budget permitting.

Recreation and Social Life

Sports

The most popular sports among foreign residents are tennis, golf, and swimming. Others are snorkeling, scuba diving, soccer, cricket, rugby, badminton, squash, fishing, and sailing. Instruction in tennis and golf is available. Many of the sports require club membership.

Entrance fees and monthly dues vary depending on type of membership and the sex and family status of the member, but they are fairly reasonable. Some Mission personnel belong to several clubs. Clubs open to all personnel are:

- **Royal Colombo Golf Club:** Colombo's only golf club has an 18-hole course and a clubhouse.

- **Nuwara Eliya Golf Club:** An 18-hole course, rated among the best in South Asia, is in the mountains at 6,200 feet in Nuwara Eliya.

- **Royal Colombo Yacht Club:** The club offers sailing on Colombo's harbor. The club also competes in international Asian meets.

- **Colombo Motor Yacht Club:** Weekend and holiday sailing is available on Bolgoda Lake about 15 miles south of Colombo. A few individuals have private motorboats. Windsurfing is also popular here.

- **Colombo Rowing Club:** Crew rowing is offered on Beira Lake. The club also competes in international Asian meets.

- **Otter Aquatic Club:** The club has a chlorinated, olympic-sized, freshwater pool, a couple of lighted tennis courts, Ping-pong, chess, badminton, and billiards.

- **Gymkhana Club:** Tennis and squash courts, a club bar, and cricket, soccer, and rugby fields are available.

- **Colombo Swimming Club:** This club has a children's pool and playground in addition to a chlorinated freshwater pool for adults, tennis courts, a library, bar, dining facilities, occasional dances, movies, and some planned social activities.

In addition, a few hotels offer pool/sport facilities memberships. The Galle Face Hotel has a salt-water pool. Both the Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental and the Hotel Lanka Oberoi have attractive freshwater pools and tennis and squash courts. The Taj Samudra, a newer hotel, also has a freshwater pool.

Playgrounds with slides, swings, etc., are available in several parks. The Colombo Zoological Gardens has a fine and large collection of animals, birds, and reptiles housed in a beautiful setting. A special feature of the zoo is an exhibition of trained elephants every evening.

Sri Lanka has beaches on both east and west coasts. Swimming is unsafe at certain times of the year because of strong currents generated by the monsoons. The most popular beaches on the west coast, which are safe from about November to May, are Mount Lavinia (30 minutes from the city) and Bentota (about a 1½-hour drive).

Golf balls and accessories are readily available at the Royal Colombo Golf Club. Goggles, flippers, fishing tackle, and other sporting equipment are not always available, or the selection is limited or expensive. Bring all articles of sports clothing from the U.S.

Touring and Outdoor Activities

Colombo is the only large city in Sri Lanka. Bombay and Madras, the closest large cities abroad, are about 1 and 2 hours away, respectively, by air. New Delhi can be reached by air via Madras, Bombay, or Kathmandu. No planes fly directly between Colombo and New Delhi.

Sri Lanka has many interesting places for weekend outings or longer holiday trips. The principal spots in the hill country are Kandy, about 70 miles away (2½ hours by car, altitude 1,674 feet), Nuwara Eliya, about 110 miles away (5 hours by car, altitude 6,185 feet); and Bandarawela, about 125 miles away (5 hours by car, altitude 4,017 feet).

Kandy is the site of the Temple of the Tooth visited by Buddhist pilgrims from all over the world. The sacred tooth relic of the Buddha is said to have been brought to Sri Lanka in the early 4th century A.D. hidden in the hair of an Indian princess. Kandy, the island's chief city in medieval times, was the last stronghold of the Sinhala kings and the last place to fall under foreign rule. Things to see include the King's Audience Hall, the Four Devalas (temples), the artificial lake constructed by Sri Wickrema Rajasinghe (the last king of Kandy) in 1806, the elephants' bathing place in Katugastota, the Botanic Gardens and University at Peradeniya, and the Kandyan Art Association.

Perhaps the most awesome and forbidding region of Sri Lanka is the Horton Plains, which are hard to

reach but well worth the effort. Located about 1 hour's drive from Nuwara Eliya, Horton Plains is a beautiful cloud forest and part of the Peak Wilderness Sanctuary. One of the major attractions here is World's End, considered by many the finest view in all of Sri Lanka. For those who enjoy trout fishing and hiking, this is the place.

For those who prefer beaches, there are many to choose from. Hikkaduwa, near Bentota, features a coral garden and is about 2½ hours by car from Colombo. There are a number of good hotels along the southwest coast in Bentota, Ahungalla, Kosgoda to name a few.

Sigiriya (3½ hours from Colombo by car), a rock fortress, exhibits famous frescoes. Sightseers also will enjoy the ancient ruins of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa (5-6 hours by car) and the Yala and Wilpattu wildlife sanctuaries (7 and 3 hours respectively by car).

Hotel accommodations outside Colombo are improving. In addition to commercially operated accommodations, the government operates a large number of resthouses, and in certain areas (notably Nuwara Eliya) bungalows are available for rent. These resthouses vary widely in quality. With few exceptions they fall below Western standards of sanitation and cleanliness, but the better ones are reasonably comfortable and provide adequate meals. All are reasonably priced.

Sri Lanka offers a wide variety of possibilities for the camera enthusiast. The lush, tropical colors combine with local customs, costumes, and settings to provide many opportunities for still and movie color photography. Film in Sri Lanka is a bit expensive, but is available. It is still advisable to bring film whenever possible. Proper storage techniques are not necessarily followed here, and arrangements for shipments of additional supplies should be made in advance.

Color print film processing is available locally and runs from fair to good depending on the store. Some employees send film via the diplomatic pouch to the U.S. for processing and return. Color slide

processing is available and satisfactory. Ektachrome and black-and-white film can be processed locally, but results are often disappointing. Photographic equipment should be protected against the high humidity.

Social Activities

Foreign Service personnel have extensive social opportunities. The mode and scale of entertainment depends on personal preferences. Buffet dinners, small lunches, and dinners or cocktail parties are popular.

Colombo has a few nightclubs, but musical entertainment is limited. The range of restaurants to choose from is not large but does include those featuring Italian, Chinese, French, Korean, German, Japanese, Pakistani, and Indian as well as local cuisine. All major hotels have adequate restaurants and accept major credit cards.

The American Women's Association is an independent organization which conducts charitable and social activities and introduces new arrivals to other Americans and to local customs and shopping. All resident American women may join the association.

Branches of the YMCA, YWCA, and the Salvation Army are also active. Some American women join the International Women's Club, which has tennis courts as well as social activities, and there is also a women's needlework group.

Official Functions

Customary courtesy calls are made on arrival at post after consultation with the officer's section chiefs. Quality of locally printed calling cards is poor. No engraving is done in Sri Lanka. Calling cards are useful but not necessary for employees who are not on the diplomatic list.

Special Information

Kandy, capital of the hill country, is 1,674 feet above sea level and 72 miles from Colombo. The average temperature is 77°F with pleasantly warm days and cool nights. Kandy is the site of a USIS American Center directed by a Sri Lankan citizen.

The Center is at 17 Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, telephone 08-24129. No U. S. Mission Americans reside in Kandy, although a small number of other Americans do.

Housing. A number of suitable houses are available for rent, ranging in price from Rs. 1,500 for a 2-bedroom house to about Rs. 3,500 for a 4-5 bedroom house. Furnished houses rent for about Rs. 6,500 a month. All houses have electricity and running water but not, generally, stoves and refrigerators. Air-conditioning is not necessary.

Electricity is 240v, 50-cycle, AC. Electricity varies, and current is usually low in the evenings. Refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, etc., generally are sold in Kandy, but are expensive. Also, many houses do not have hot water heaters, but heaters are available on the local market. A satisfactory, locally built refrigerator can be purchased in Colombo or Kandy.

Food. Staples are generally available in Kandy. The local beef is quite good. Chicken, ham, pork, and bacon—available at Cargills, Elephant House, Cornel's Super Market, and most all grocery stores—vary in quality. The imported food available generally is expensive.

Clothing. Although Kandy is cooler than Colombo, the same type of clothing is generally appropriate for both. You may need a sweater in the evenings, especially in December and January. Bring a lightweight blanket. Certain readymade clothing is available in Kandy. Tailoring is good and fabrics are available. Bring all clothing for a tour.

Dress for most men at the office is sport or bush shirt with casual slacks. For unofficial gatherings, official dinners, and receptions, dress usually is designated "bush,"

which means bush or dress shirts without ties for men and long or short dresses or dressy slacks for women. Suit and tie may be required two or three times a year for some event in Kandy or Colombo.

Supplies and Services. Some foreign and local toiletries, cosmetics, perfumes, etc., are available. Medicines are available at Cargills, Lanka Medicals, and Osu Sala.

Shoes, as well as most mechanical and electrical items, can be repaired. Beauty shops and dry-cleaning facilities are available.

Domestic help is available. Salaries for domestic help are generally lower than in Colombo.

Religious Activities. English services are held in Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, and other churches. Most have Sunday school programs. Many churches also have services in Sinhala and Tamil.

Recreation and Social Life. Membership is available at the Lawn Club, which has three clay tennis courts. One court is lighted, and an extra fee is charged for its use. Foreign families may join the pool and tennis club at Hotel Suisse by paying an entrance fee plus monthly subscription. The pool is pleasant, and one tennis court is available. Service from the hotel bar and sandwiches are available at the pool. Newer hotels, e.g., Citadel, Mahaweli Reach, also have such pool facilities. Rugby, soccer, and cricket matches are held in season.

Entertainment. Occasionally, English-language movies come to local cinemas. French movies with English subtitles are shown at the Kandy branch of Alliance Francaise. Classic American movies, shown periodically at the Kandy American Center, are open to a limited number of Americans. Occasionally, movies are shown at the British Council Library.

Concerts by local or foreign artists sponsored by various local organizations are scheduled about every 2 months. A local dance band plays on alternate nights at two Kandy hotels. The Kandy Lake Club is a gambling casino.

A few nice picnic spots are near Kandy, particularly the Victoria Dam area. Mountains, beaches, and wildlife parks are 3-7 hours from Kandy by car.

Once a year the Kandy Perahera provides week-long entertainment. Kandyan dancers perform nightly throughout the year.

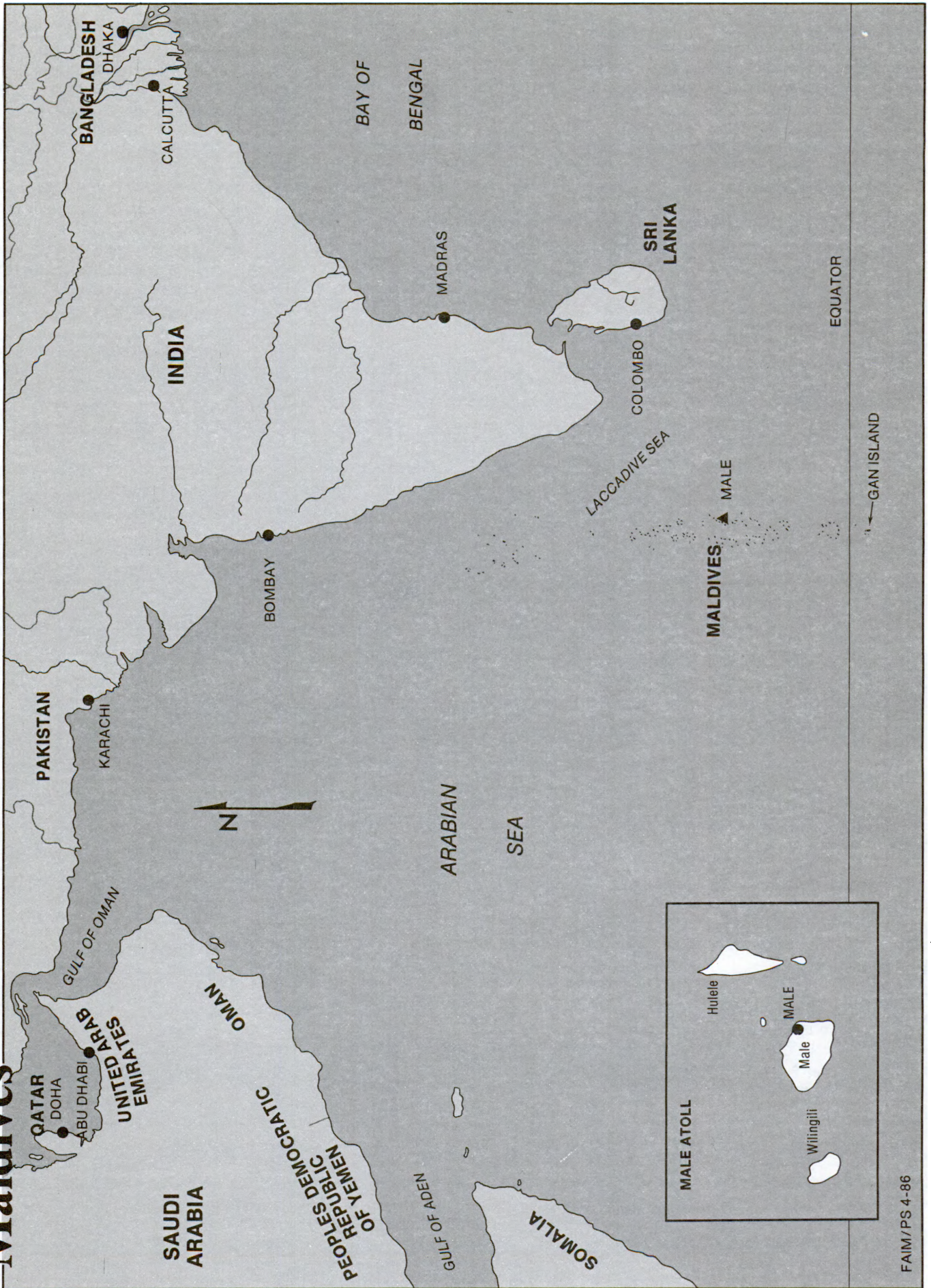
Health and Medicine. For minor illnesses medical facilities in Kandy are acceptable. Many foreign personnel use the facilities offered by the Lakeside Medical Center, a Seventh-day Adventist institution. The center has three staff doctors and limited laboratory, X-ray, dispensary, surgery, and ward facilities.

Local specialists may be called in for consultation at the Center or may be seen at the Channeled Practice Services (a service to permit government doctors to have private patients). These same doctors are available at the Kandy General Hospital, but this hospital is seldom used by Americans.

The Japanese have built and equipped a teaching hospital on the campus of the School of Medicine at Peradeniya. This provides additional services and facilities. For major medical and hospitalization problems, facilities are better in Colombo.

The supply of drugs in Kandy is less than in Colombo. Vaccinations for international travel can be obtained at the Kandy General Hospital. Bring disposable needles and syringes for all injections. Americans in Kandy have found that dental care at the Dental School of the University of Peradeniya is often adequate if given by one of the professors.

Maldives



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Republic of Maldives

Area, Geography, and Climate

The Republic of Maldives is in the northern Indian Ocean about 400 miles southwest of Sri Lanka and 300 miles from the southernmost tip of India. A chain of 19 atolls with a total area of 115 square miles, the Maldives extends a distance of 550 miles north-south. The atolls comprise about 1,200 coral islands. The islets are small (none larger than 4 square miles in area) and seldom exceed an elevation of 5 or 6 feet above sea level.

The tropical vegetation varies from grass and scrub to dense woods of fruit trees or coconut palms.

The climate is hot and humid with little daily variation; the average temperature is 80°F and the relative humidity is 80%. Most of the area is subject to the southwest monsoon (June to August) and the northeast monsoon (November to March); the annual rainfall averages 100 inches in the north and 150 inches in the south. Living conditions are not healthful in this warm, wet environment.

Male

Male, capital of the Republic of Maldives, is an island about 1½ square miles in total area occupying a central position in the archipelago. Land is slowly being reclaimed on the island's north side. All government offices, the four main government schools, and the single hospital are also here. The commercial district has a wide variety of small shops selling curios, antiques, sea-shells, and other goods.

Many of the imported items are transported by Maldivian merchant ships. Male also has an attractive park, Sultan Park, and a museum with artifacts originating from

Arab, Dravidian, and Sri Lankan cultures which have influenced the history of this island republic.

Male's population is about 40,000. Male is a free port; no duties are levied on articles brought into Male by visitors. However, certain articles must be declared at customs. Since the Maldives is a Moslem country, no pork products or liquor may be brought in by the visitor. Tourist islands in the Maldives often offer pork and liquor for sale to tourists only.

Although the official language of the Maldives is Dhivehi, English is the second language.

The Post and Its Administration

Male has an American Consular Agency supervised by the Embassy in Sri Lanka. The agency is at Mandhu Eduruge, Male, telephone Male 2581, telex number 66028. Most diplomatic officers in the Embassy in Colombo are also accredited to the Maldives.

No official Americans reside in the Maldives.

Housing

Accommodations in the Maldives are available on Male and any of the tourist islands. The tourist island Villingilli, nearest Male, is about 15 minutes by boat from the capital city. Two government guesthouses and two hotels are also available on the island. All accommodations on tourist islands will provide full board, although partial board (2 meals per day) is also available.

Simple but adequate one- or two-bedroom flats and houses (sometimes with a small yard) are available for long-term housing. New construction is underway, but it takes at least 3 months to find suitable quarters. Rental may vary from U.S. \$200 to \$400 a month (exclusive of electricity charges) and much more if the house is large or has special amenities.

Utilities and Equipment

Electric current in Male is 220v-240v, 50-cycle AC. Electricity is reliable and expensive.

Male has no piped public water supply or sewage network. Sweet water is obtained from household wells and rain catchment. The well water is for general use and the rain catchment for drinking. Boiling and filtering of drinking water is essential. Houses rented for foreigners have individual compound septic tanks.

Food

Rice, flour, lentils, coconuts, fish, sugar, salt, onions, green chilies, and spices are the mainstays of the Maldivian diet.

Many types of inexpensive fresh fish are available daily (except Friday), but the most common are tuna, bonito, and seer. It is possible to arrange occasional supplies of spiny lobster and turtle meat. Poultry and eggs are always available. Chickens are scrawny and expensive, and imported eggs are available. Fresh meat is available, but dairy products are not available locally.

Fruits such as papayas, limes, bananas, and coconuts are always on the market; one variety of mango is available in season. Tropical yellow vegetables such as pumpkin, sweet potatoes, yams, breadfruit, brinjal (eggplant), and gourd var-

ieties are usually available; potatoes and onions are found intermittently. Fresh green vegetables are imported and available year round.

Good quality white loaf bread is baked daily. A variety of canned and bottled goods gradually is becoming more common in shops. Nespray powdered milk and tinned cheese, cream, and condensed milk are nearly always sold locally. Frozen meat is available as well as ice cream. Coca-Cola and 7-Up in cans and other soft drinks are available. Beer, wine, spirits, and other drinks containing alcohol are sold in tourist hotels.

Clothing

Warm clothing is never required. Cotton dresses, trousers, skirts, and lightweight tropical suits are the most comfortable year-round attire. Some readymade clothing, notably shirts, jeans, trousers, ladies' dresses and blouses, T-shirts, underwear, rubber sandals, and infants' wear are increasingly available though often expensive for the quality. A variety of high-quality, synthetic materials is available and is relatively inexpensive. Pure cotton cloth, which suits the climate best, is available.

The correct dress for men in government offices is trousers with either a shirt and tie or a bush shirt; and shoes are preferred to sandals. When visiting any ministry, shirt and tie (without a jacket), or a bush suit, or a suit with tie is acceptable. Women wear slacks or dresses with a knee-length hemline and short sleeves to offices in Male.

Supplies and Services

Supplies

Simple basic, heavy furniture; kerosene table stoves; fans; sometimes small refrigerators; washers; sew-

ing machines; TV sets; cassette players; radios; and some cooking items, cutlery, and linen are sold in Male.

Some furniture may be rented, made, or bought locally at auction; custom-made furniture is expensive. Thin mattresses (stuffed with foam) are available locally. Beds have a hard surface and no springs. Kerosene table stoves are used by a few wealthy local families and by most foreigners.

Basic Services

Maldives has few laundries and no drycleaning shops. Shoe repair facilities are fair. Imported, high-quality goods are expensive and scarce. Bring sufficient quantities of hair-care products, perfume, and cosmetics for those who have special preferences. These items also may be imported. Spare parts for household articles must be imported. Electricians and plumbers are available and are of fair quality. Hairdressers and barbers are available; their charges are moderate.

Domestic Help

Inexpensive domestic help is available, but experienced, well-qualified help is scarce. Language and customs differences can create problems.

Education

Education in government-run schools is free. Western-style education based on the British Commonwealth curriculum exists in Male only up to the high-school level. Studies beyond high school must be pursued abroad. Most teachers are experienced Maldivian and Sri Lankan nationals. The medium of instruction is English. Grades pre-school through 10 are available. After grade 10, students sit for the London General Certificate of Education (G.C.E. Ordinary Level) Examination. The G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination is offered at the Science Education Center.

Recreation and Social Life

Male has one or two good restaurants. Two hotels, an Italian restaurant, and the tourist island restaurants provide some diversion in entertainment. Sports such as swimming, diving, and sailing are readily available.

Special Information

As in other tropical countries the main health problems of the population are infectious diseases. Tuberculosis, filariasis, and leprosy are found; gastroenteritis, ear infections, measles, and skin diseases are common. Always boil and filter drinking water. Clean and sterilize the filter weekly. Many people avoid eating raw vegetables and unpeeled fruits. Since the incidence of mosquito-borne diseases is high, sleep under a mosquito net if the bedroom is not air-conditioned. Nets are available locally.

Cholera and yellow fever vaccinations are required for arrivals from affected areas. Immunization against tetanus, typhoid, and poliomyelitis is recommended.

Clinical medical care in Male is available at the government hospital which also has two national dental assistants, one trained in Britain and one in Sri Lanka. Although the hospital itself is a superior, small facility with excellent nursing care, most surgery or serious illnesses cannot be attended to, so patients must be evacuated. Singapore is the nearest place which can give first-class care.

Notes for Travelers

Getting to the Post

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Sri Lanka customs require that a detailed packing list, signed by the packer, shipper, or consignee be filed with the clearance documents. All personnel assigned here are requested to furnish the Embassy general services officer with an inventory, including measurements and weight of containers, as soon as effects are packed so that the shipment may be cleared if it precedes the arriving officer.

In addition, to clear an automobile the Embassy requires the following information: engine number, chassis number, make, color, model, left- or right-hand drive, first date of registration, and year of manufacture. If a second-hand car, include purchase price paid when new. If ordering a new car, furnish invoice and copy of bill of lading.

In arranging airfreight shipments from the U.S. to Colombo, allow at least 3-6 weeks transit time. Surface shipment of household effects or consumables takes 3-4 months. All household and consumable shipments should be well waterproofed due to the heavy monsoon rains. Packing should take into account Colombo's high humidity.

Customs clearance is arranged by the Embassy's General Services Section. When shipping a car, remove hubcaps, windshield wiper blades and arms, outside mirrors, and aerials and lock them inside the trunk or pack them in a strong steel-banded box. Do not store any additional items in the car.

Because Colombo has little equipment to handle oversized shipments, liftvans should not exceed 6 feet wide by 7 feet high and 8 feet long and weigh more than 2 tons.



The USAID, USIS, and VOA offices are located in the old Chancery building at 44 Galle Road.

Customs, Duties, and Passage

Customs and Duties

The Government of Sri Lanka extends duty-free entry privileges to all American employees of the U.S. Mission.

Mission personnel on the diplomatic list are authorized duty-free importation of two vehicles during a tour of duty. Non-diplomatic personnel may import only one vehicle duty free per tour. Direct-hire USAID personnel may import two vehicles duty free per tour. A motorcycle is considered a vehicle.

Passage

Obtain a 3-month entry visa from Sri Lanka or British representatives outside Sri Lanka. When time does not permit, a 30-day entry visa can be obtained at the airport on arrival. The Embassy Personnel

Office will arrange to have passports endorsed shortly after arrival to facilitate travel into and out of Sri Lanka during assignment. (The endorsement is in effect a multiple-entry visa good for the tour.)

The Department of State considers inoculations against cholera necessary for persons traveling in the Middle East and yellow fever for those passing through parts of Africa and South America.

Pets

Notify the Embassy in advance if pets will be arriving. Advise flight details to allow GSO to notify the Sri Lankan Government veterinary surgeon, who must clear all pets on arrival, and to obtain Foreign Ministry clearance. Health and vaccination certificates applicable to the U. S. will suffice. Health and antirabies certificates must accompany the pet.

Firearms and Ammunition

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a decree stating that no foreigners including members of the diplomatic community are permitted to import, purchase, or possess firearms in Sri Lanka.

Currency, Banking, and Weights and Measures

Sri Lanka's monetary unit is the rupee. The officially established rate changes daily. The rate of exchange is about Rs. 27=U.S.\$1 (1985). Strict currency controls require customs declaration of all foreign currency brought into and taken out of the country and severely limit local importation of foreign goods. Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan rupees are forbidden to be imported into or exported out of the country.

Banking facilities are available and establishment of a local checking account is the best means to record bill payments. Checks can be used to pay credit account bills; however, daily transactions in most businesses are done in local currency.

Retain any U.S. dollars for future travel use. Individuals with current American Express credit cards may purchase American Express travelers checks with personal checks. An arrangement with Citibank, the local U.S. depository, provides for the purchase of travelers checks for U.S. Mission staff members by personal check from U.S. banks.

Most persons open rupee checking accounts in Sri Lanka to pay local bills and maintain a U.S. dollar checking account in the U.S. to pay for American purchases.

Sri Lanka now operates on the metric system in calculating weights and measures.

Taxes, Exchange, and Sale of Property

Gasoline and diesel fuel are available only from the state-owned Sri Lanka Petroleum Corporation. In September, 1985 gasoline cost 13.50 rupees per liter and diesel 9.25 rupees per liter. American Embassy, USAID, USIS, VOA, and Defense attache employees may purchase gas on the Mission compound. The price is only slightly cheaper than purchasing gas outside of the compound.

Diplomatic personnel are exempt from Sri Lankan import restrictions concerning vehicle engine size and age and the prohibition on the importation of left-hand-drive vehicles. Left-hand-drive vehicles must, however, be re-exported at the end of the employee's tour.

Sri Lankan Government regulations require that vehicles imported into Sri Lanka under duty-free privileges be either re-exported, sold to another person with duty-free privileges, or offered for sale to the Department of Government Supplies upon completion of the importer's assignment. Only after it has been rejected by the Department of Government Supplies can a vehicle imported duty-free be sold on the open market. If sold on the open market, the purchaser is responsible for the payment of the import duties, which even on a used vehicle can range from 20% to over 100%.

In order to sell a vehicle imported under duty-free privileges, the Embassy must notify the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which then passes the information on to the Director of Government Supplies. The Department of Government Supplies will then schedule the vehicle for a valuation. At the time of the valuation, the Embassy must provide a copy of the original invoice listing the CIF value of the vehicle, a declaration of the duty payable on the vehicle, and the local agent's valuation of the vehicle at the time of purchase (usually the same as the CIF value on the original invoice). The following depreciation schedule, based on the CIF value, is used by the Department of Government Supplies in making its valuation

(an additional depreciation of 15% can be made if warranted by the vehicle's condition):

First Year	10%
Second Year	5%
Third Year	20%
Fourth Year	30%
Fifth Year	40%

The process of disposing of a vehicle locally has often been a frustrating experience for Mission personnel. In some cases, the vehicle cannot be re-exported to the new post and the relatively low cost of a new duty-free vehicle can make it difficult to sell a used vehicle to a buyer with duty-free privileges. Although the Department of Government Supplies has published standard rates of depreciation for the purchase of vehicles from sellers with duty-free privileges, the actual price can be the subject of extensive negotiation. The net result is that Mission personnel have often been dissatisfied with the prices received for their vehicles. Due to government restrictions and high import duties, this is not a post where Mission personnel can expect to break even on the sale of a vehicle.

Mission personnel have occasionally departed Sri Lanka without finalizing arrangements for the sale of their vehicle. In order to expedite the disposal of vehicles and limit the liability of the Embassy in cases in which a vehicle registered in the name of a former Mission employee is left in-country, the post has established a policy under which vehicles not sold or re-exported at the time the owner leaves the country must be turned over to the general services officer with a power of attorney and instructions for disposition. The vehicle will be re-exported or sold within a period of 60 days to a buyer with duty-free privileges or the Department of Government Supplies. The general services officer cannot assume liability for the price obtained for a vehicle sold following departure of the owner.

When personnel import second-hand cars into Sri Lanka for their personal use, i.e., automobiles which they have used in the U.S. or the previous post of assignment, it is essential that they bring or send to the post in advance the "first registration card" and the "original



An aerial view of the Sigiriya Rock Fortress (above). Workers pick black tea leaves; tea is a principal cash crop in Sri Lanka (below).



invoice". They also should notify the post in advance of the engine and chassis number. Failure to produce the first registration card and the original invoice can cause considerable delay in clearing and registering the automobile.

The unauthorized export of antiques from Sri Lanka is prohibited. Prior to the purchase of antiques, it is best to consult the Commissioner of Archeology, Archeological Department, Colombo, for proper advice and guidance. Only antiques certified and cleared by the Archeological Commissioner can be exported.

To prevent confiscation or taxation of antiques, have a receipt for bona fide antiques or have the antiques listed on the packing list before entering Sri Lanka. On arrival, the packing list should be produced to the Commissioner of Archeology who will verify the antiques against the packing list and certify the packing list. Retain this inventory listing until departure from Sri Lanka in the event questions are raised at the time of departure from the island.

Recommended Reading

These titles are provided as a general indication of the material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

Westerners have been writing about Sri Lanka since the days of Marco Polo. Portuguese, Dutch, and British writers are particularly prolific. This selection also includes titles by Sri Lankan scholars.

Brohier, R. L. *Discovering Ceylon*. Colombo, Lake House Investments Ltd., 1973. The fables, traditions, and history of an old civilization permeate the affectionate and nostalgic account of the author's love affair with his country.

deSilva, K. M. *A History of Sri Lanka*. Oxford University Press: London; University of California Press: Berkeley,

1981. The first general history of Sri Lanka—ancient, medieval, and modern—in one handy volume. It is intended mainly as a convenient precis of the available state of the historical arts on the island and satisfies that purpose to good effect.

deSilva, K. M., ed. *Sri Lanka: A Survey*. University of Hawaii Press: Honolulu, 1977. This cooperative enterprise of University of Sri Lanka at Peradeniya scholars (now renamed the University of Peradeniya) offers a systematic analysis of the island's economy and politics and a useful survey of its demographic profile, education, religion, literature, and arts.

Jayawardena, V. K. *The Rise of the Labor Movement in Ceylon*. Duke University Press: Durham, N.C., 1972. This first study made of the rise of Ceylon's labor movements is by a former senior lecturer in Economics at the former University of Ceylon, now Senior Lecturer, Department of History and Political Science, University of Colombo.

Hulugalle, H. A. J. *Ceylon Yesterday, Sri Lanka Today*. Stockholm, Stureforlaget AB, 1976. This lavish coffee table book has as its chief feature a compendium of photographs in color by the accomplished Sri Lankan photographers Nihal Fernando and Pat Dekker.

Images of Sri Lanka Through American Eyes: Travellers in Ceylon in the 19th and 20th Centuries, compiled and edited, with an Introduction, Commentaries, and Bibliography by H.A.I. Goonetilleke. Colombo, USICA, 2d ed. 1983. A select anthology of the impressions of visiting Americans beginning with the early missionaries and ending with Thomas Merton.

Knox, Robert. *An Historical Relation of the Island Ceylon*, with Introduction by H.A.I. Goonetilleke. New Delhi, Navrang, 1983. Facsimile reprint of the 1st ed. 1981. Knox was held prisoner by the Kandyan kings for 30 years in the 17th century and lived in many parts of the

kingdom. On escaping to England he wrote one of the great shipwreck classics. It tells more about the Kandyan kingdom than any other single book and, incidentally, is said to have inspired Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*.

Ludowyk, E.F.C. *The Footprints of the Buddha*. Allen and Unwin: London, 1958. An unusually discerning presentation of the impact of Buddhism on the evolution of society in Sri Lanka and the importance of its artistic and cultural heritage.

Ludowyk, E.F.C. *The Modern History of Ceylon*. Weidenfeld and Nicolson: London, 1966. An attractively written study of the entire period of British rule since 1976 and the evolution of a modern nation state after independence in 1948.

Ludowyk, E.F.C. *The Story of Ceylon*. Faber and Faber: London, 1962. (2nd edition, 1967). One of the best general histories, well written, by a sympathetic, knowledgeable Burgher historian and literary critic, now living in London.

Raven-Hart, R. *Ceylon History in Stone*. Lake House Investments, Ltd. Colombo, 1964. Discusses Ceylon's remarkable early history (3rd century B.C. to medieval times, 15th century) from inscriptions and ruins. Important for an understanding of the historical time sense of the present nationalists.

Roberts, Michael. *Collective Identities, Nationalisms and Protest in Modern Sri Lanka*. Colombo, Marga Institute, 1979. A series of writings on the subject of ethnic identities and conflicting ethnic claims made during the past two centuries.

Woolf, Leonard. *Growing: An Autobiography of the Years 1904-1911*. Harcourt Bruce: New York, 1961. Woolf, Virginia Woolf's husband, was a civil servant under the British and writes evocatively about the country, its people, and his tasks.

Politics Since Independence

Farmer, B. H. *Ceylon: A Divided Nation*. Oxford University Press: London, 1963. A well written, compact analysis of the Tamil-Sinhalese problem.

Jupp, James. *Sri Lanka—Third World Democracy*. Frank Cass: London, 1978. A penetrating and informative discussion of the progress of the island's polity and economy under the continuing impress of a parliamentary democratic system since 1948.

Kearney, Robert N. *The Politics of Ceylon (Sri Lanka)*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1973. A conceptually tidy discussion of Sri Lankan politics, more shapely than the reality, but useful.

Wilson, A. Jeyaratnam. *The Gaullist System in Asia: The Constitution of Sri Lanka*. Macmillan: London, 1980. The author seeks to relate the constitution of 1978 to its immediate socio-political and economic environment; to indicate the similarities between that and its closest counterpart, the Fifth Republic of France and the British and U.S. structures.

Wilson, A. Jeyaratnam. *Politics in Sri Lanka 1947-1979*. Macmillan: London, 2nd edition 1980. Detailed information by a Ceylon Tamil, formerly on the Faculty of the University of Ceylon, now teaching at the University of New Brunswick, Canada.

Wriggins, W. Howard. *Ceylon: Dilemmas of a New Nation*. Princeton University Press: Princeton, N.J., 1960. (Reprinted New Delhi, 1980) Still the most comprehensive discussion of politics, constitutional practice, and the cultural, religious, and linguistic movements which brought the Bandaranaiques to power.

Buddhism and Hinduism

Carter, John Ross, ed. *Religiousness in Sri Lanka*. The Marga Institute: Colombo 1979. Representatives of the four major

religious traditions in Sri Lanka reveal the strengths and significance of their adherence to their respective religious faiths and the enduring value of the religious community in a pluralistic society.

Cartman, Rev. James. *Hinduism in Ceylon*. Colombo, M.D. Gunasena, 1957. A general introduction to the theory and practice of Hinduism as found in Sri Lanka.

Gunawardana, R.A.L.H. *Robe and Plough: Monasticism and Economic Interest in Early Medieval Sri Lanka*. University of Arizona Press, 1979. A substantial study of the crucial economic aspects of Buddhist monastic organization in an important period of Sri Lankan history which marked the emergence of Sinhala state power.

Malalgoda, Kitsiri. *Buddhism in Sinhalese Society 1750-1900: A Study of Religious Revival and Change*. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1976. A detailed study of the history of Sinhalese Buddhism during a recent 150-year period in which the classical tradition experienced revival and change in response to both internal and external pressures.

Rahula, Walpola, Thera. *History of Buddhism in Ceylon. The Anuradhapura Period 3rd Century B.C. 10th Century A.D.* Colombo. M.D. Gunasena, 2nd Edition 1968. An authoritative and well-documented study of Buddhism in Ceylon, its development, structure, and administration of monasteries and the activities of the monastic life.

Rahula, Walpola, Thera. *What the Buddha Taught*. Diemer and Reynolds: Bedford, 1959. Written by a Buddhist monk who has spent much time in the West.

The Economy

Annual Reviews of the Economy. Department of Economic Research, Central Bank of Ceylon.

Karunatilake, H.N.S. *Economic Development in Ceylon*. Praeger: New York, 1971. A descriptive analysis of the economy, by an economist who is currently Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Ceylon.

Ponnambalam, Satchi. *Dependent Capitalism in Crisis*. The Sri Lankan Economy, 1948-1980. London, Zed Press; New Delhi, Vikas Publishing House Pvt., 1981. A wide-ranging survey and critical evaluation of the economic politics and programs, development planning and performance, and the resulting socio-economic politics since independence.

Snodgrass, Donald R. *Ceylon: An Export Economy in Transition*. Richard Irwin: Homewood, Ill., 1966. A rigorous, quantitative, well-written analysis of the characteristics of the economy, changes over time, and contemporary problems.

Society and Miscellaneous

American Women's Association. *Colombo Handbook*. Associated Newspapers of Ceylon, Ltd., 1981. An indispensable handbook for information on everything from automobiles, diseases, hospitals, recreation, servants, shopping, zoos, etc.

Area Handbook of Ceylon. (Prepared by Foreign Studies of the American University, Richard F. Nyrop and others). U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C., 1971. A good area handbook; contains much information not easily available elsewhere.

Farmer, B. H. *Pioneer Peasant Colonization in Ceylon*. Oxford University Press: London, 1957. The most authoritative study of the agricultural, administrative, ecological, engineering, and human aspects of colonization efforts up to 1957. Indispensable for those interested in irrigation settlements.

Insight Guides. Sri Lanka Apa Productions, 1983. A useful guidebook with excellent color illustrations.

Karunaratne, Nihal. *From Governor's Pavilion to President's Pavilion*. Colombo, 1984. A charming guide to the history of the building and its occupants, with outstanding colored illustrations.

National Geographic Magazine. National Geographic Society: Washington, D.C. Issues of April 1966 and January 1979 are devoted to Sri Lanka with usual beautiful photography and texts.

Pieris, Ralph. *Sinhalese Social Organization*. Ceylon University Press Board: Colombo 1956. The first comprehensive survey of Sinhalese society in the Kandyan period, in the three centuries prior to the coming of the British. Complements Knox.

Robert, Michael. *Caste Conflict and Elite Formation*. The rise of a Karava elite in Sri Lanka, 1500–1931. Cambridge University Press, 1982.

Ryan, Bryce. *Caste in Modern Ceylon*. Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, N.J., 1953. Still the best general discussion of all aspects of caste, though now a bit dated.

Still, John H. *The Jungle Tide*. Blackwood: London, 1955. A lover of Ceylon's jungles carries you back and into the wilds with an indigenous Veddah family and its problems.

Vijayatunga, J. *Grass for my Feet*. Edward Arnold: London, 1935 (reprinted 1953). (New edition, Howard Baker: London, 1970). A popular and nostalgic account of the author's traditional village society; a charming description of community life in rural Sri Lanka in the twenties.

Woolf, Leonard. *The Village in the Jungle*. London 1913. (Reissued in Colombo by Hansa Publishers, 1974). The great novel of Ceylon jungle life, as the British Raj impinges on uncomprehending, hardpressed villages beset by the jungle.

Yalman, N. *Under the Bo Tree—Studies in Caste, Kinship, and Marriage in the Interior of Ceylon*. University of California Press: Berkeley, 1967. Much information for those interested in life outside Colombo.

Local Holidays

The Embassy celebrates the usual U.S. holidays and a number of local holidays. Many local holidays vary from year to year in accordance with the lunar calendar. Except for the American holidays which are normal workdays in Sri Lanka, the local holidays observed by the Embassy are statutory holidays and local facilities are closed on those days. However, personnel arriving at post need not schedule arrival to avoid these holidays. The Embassy will arrange for someone to meet you at the airport.

