

CEYLON *Today*

**Sir Claude Corea's
Address to the United
Nations**

**Mahavihara — Lanka's
First Monastery**
WILLIAM PEIRIS

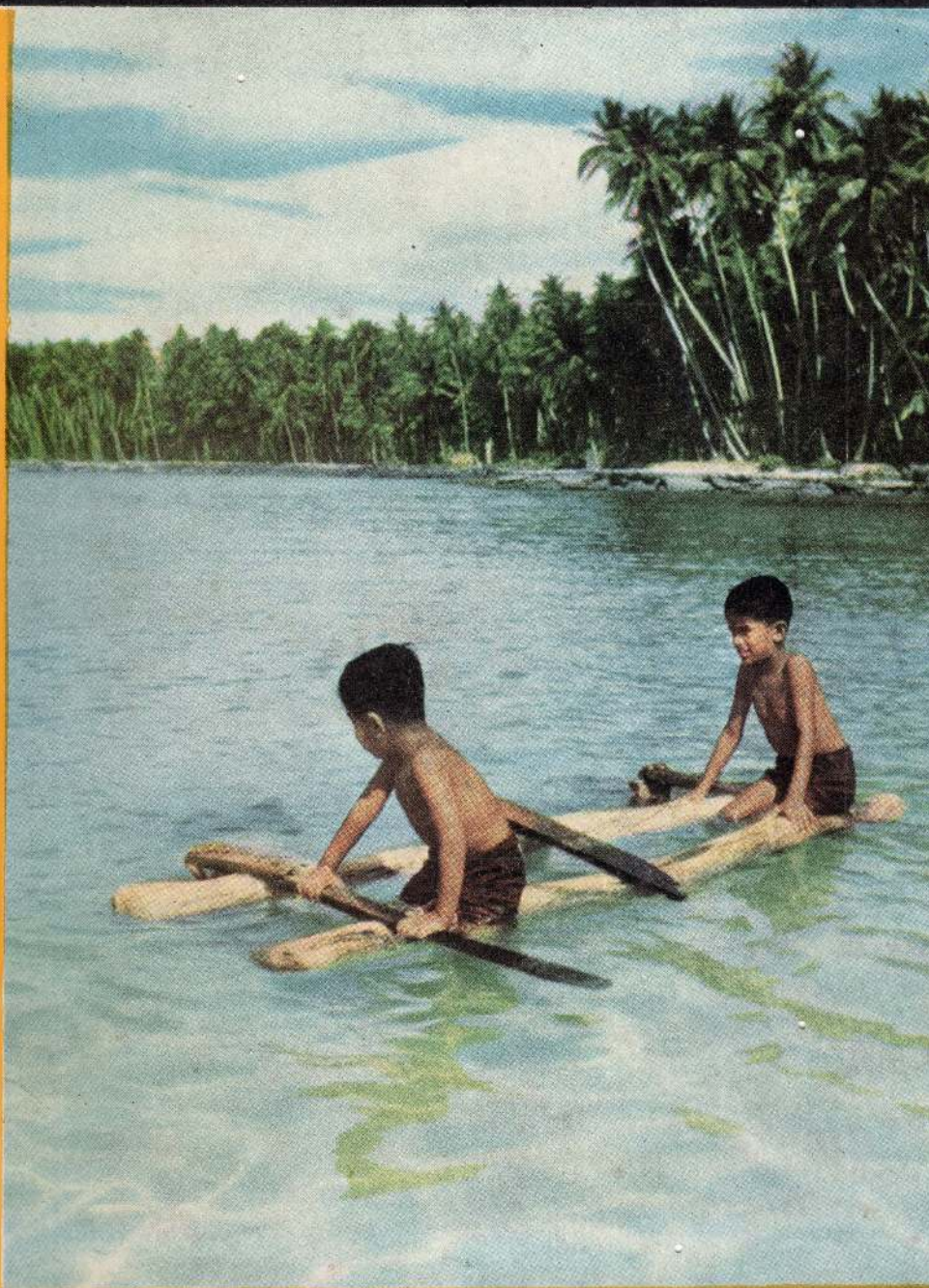
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NOVEMBER, 1959

CEYLON TODAY

			<i>Local</i>		<i>Foreign</i>
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Price per copy	0 50	..	—
Postage	0 10	..	—

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CEYLON

Today

PUBLISHED BY THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

November, 1959

Vol. VIII No. 11

*All editorial correspondence should be addressed
to the Assistant Director of Information,
Information Department, Senate Building,
Colombo 1*

Sir Claude Corea's Address to the United Nations

WE publish below extracts from the text of the address delivered by Sir Claude Corea, Permanent Representative of Ceylon to the United Nations, at the U. N. General Assembly on October 5th, 1959:—

We are engaged at the 14th Sessions of the General Assembly in discussing the world situation in its varied aspects. What we are seeking to do is, by discussion, to clarify the problems that exist and to consider such measures as are available to us to achieve the principal objective of our Charter, namely, world peace and security, and thus to secure the happiness of all peoples. This action on our part may be likened to an annual stocktaking to enable us not only to review those events, great and small, that have occurred in all parts of the world since we last met—events which are really symptomatic of the state of health of our world—but also to review our own acts of commission and omission. Thus we may gain strength from what we have achieved in the past and note wherein we have omitted to do the things we should have done, or done the things we should not have done. I need hardly state that such a review is not only important but essential, if the United Nations is to carry out its objectives. The time we

spend in this debate is in no way a waste of time as some people seem to imagine. A proper diagnosis is required in the treatment of any ailment before an attempt to prescribe a remedy is undertaken. Moreover, by our discussions here, we focus the attention of the world on such ailments and on the measures that must urgently be undertaken to cure them.

On the other hand, there is an anxious feeling growing among many, including members of this organisation, regarding a tendency to deal with pressing international problems outside this body, by diplomatic activity amongst a few of the great powers. In his introduction to the Annual Report, the Secretary-General discusses this important matter and concludes that such activity is within the Charter. My Delegation agrees with him when he says, and I quote, "The United Nations is not intended to be a substitute for normal procedures of reconciliation and mediation but rather an added instrument providing, within the limits of its competence, a further, or ultimate, support for the maintenance of peace and security". But the position should be carefully considered by us all and, more particularly, by the great powers themselves to prevent the

weakening of our organisation. This can happen if we neglect the possibilities which the organisation offers.

There is also the possibility that some consider that the organisation is not able to meet the demands which member nations are entitled to put on it. A case in point is the Disarmament Commission established by resolution of the General Assembly at its 13th Session last year. It is undoubtedly true that disarmament is essentially a matter for big-power agreement. But it is an issue of vital interest to all member states and one on which they are all, including the smaller states, competent to make some valuable contribution. The Disarmament Commission was not convened for nearly a whole year, and was actually convened only a few days before the General Assembly met in its 14th Sessions, after the great powers had reached a decision. This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs which creates legitimate concern. We are, however, satisfied that the Secretary-General has interpreted the situation correctly, but our concern make us express the hope that all its member states will utilize the possibilities of the organization to the fullest extent. In this belief, it is the desire of my Delegation to place before this Assembly the views of our Government on some of the problems which we consider particularly important. We have listened with interest and close attention to the weighty and important views expressed by distinguished representatives in the course of this debate. Whether they have been made by big or small countries, they have all contributed to the clarification of world public opinion and the thinking of governments all over the world. There is no doubt that these statements will assist us greatly when we meet in plenary or in committee to discuss and take decisions on specific problems. In expressing our own views, we are fully conscious of the fact that we are a small country and we do not entertain any pretensions to authoritative pronouncements on any of the pressing problems of the day. We are,

however, as deeply concerned about the possible consequences of a failure to solve these problems as any other of our colleagues who are members of the United Nations. We have, therefore, no hesitation in expressing our views, in the hope and expectation that, in doing so, we may be able to assist in some small way in the collective effort that is now being made towards the solution of the great issues that face us in our time.

Part of Small Countries

I WOULD like, therefore, to assert that, while we recognise and give full weight to the value of opinions expressed and positions taken by the more advanced and developed countries of the world, the contributions made by the smaller countries can be equally important and useful. In fact, smaller countries are in a singularly advantageous position of being free from prejudice or self interest. They are less interested in power politics or in such questions as the maintenance of a balance of power. They are, therefore, in the specially favoured position of being able to express views and take positions on world problems in an objective way, basing their stand on what is right, irrespective of who is right. Left to themselves, they can consider questions without fear or favour, affection or ill-will. While we know that, at times, this becomes exceedingly difficult because of the existence of the two powerful political groups opposed to each other, and because of pressures which may be brought to bear, the opinions of small countries, nevertheless, are not unworthy of careful consideration, especially, for instance, in those issues such as world peace, freedom and independence, in which they are vitally interested. We therefore hope that there will not be any desire to segregate the bigger issues for consideration only by the great powers. What we have already heard from them in the course of this debate, makes it clear that the smaller powers also could make a useful contribution.

The Agenda before the General Assembly sets out the problems we are faced with at the



The Ceylon delegation at the U. N. General Assembly in New York. The Permanent Representative of Ceylon to the United Nations, Sir Claude Corea, is second from left

present time. All these problems are important as they are undoubtedly symptoms or manifestations of an unhealthy state of affairs. Similar problems have arisen before, and will still continue to arise in different parts of the world. We have a good record of satisfactory solutions of many problems and, in other cases, satisfactory steps have been taken to prevent certain developments from spreading and becoming a danger to world peace. The presence of the United Nations has been most helpful.

It is hardly necessary, in this Assembly, to refer in detail to those actions by the United Nations at different times in its short history. These are very well-known and indicate the absolute necessity of the existence of an international body such as this. There are instances where we have not been as successful, but it is our hope that at this Session, we may be able to proceed with confidence and energy to resolve as many of the problems which are before us.

Two Basic Problems

AMONG the many problems to which I have already referred and which, as I said before, are all of great importance, there are in the opinion of my Delegation, two problems which stand out as of supreme importance. It is our view that, if these two basic problems can be satisfactorily dealt with and some

effective solution found, the settlement of many of the other problems will become easier. I refer, of course, to the problems of disarmament and economic development.

The armaments race between great powers, at any time, is fraught with peril, but the danger is considerably heightened when such a race takes place in the tense international atmosphere which we have commonly come to call the "cold war". With the terrific destructive capacity which science has enabled man to possess, the results of war can be restricted neither in space nor in time. The scientists of the world say with one voice, that it is not only our own generation that will be exposed to death and suffering, but that a generation still to be born is under a similar threat. That more than one million persons will die and one and a quarter million abnormal children will be born as a result of radioactive fall-out from nuclear bombs already exploded—is the considered opinion of five prominent American, Japanese and French scientists, expressed in a memorandum submitted by them to the French Academy of Science. Comment on this appears to be superfluous. Here is a moral consideration which was absent from the questions of war and peace in the past. For the first time, perhaps, in recorded history, we have a cold war situation in which two powers are sitting on unparalleled means of destruction.

It is in this context that the 14th General Assembly has met and it would be tragic if we failed to consider sincerely all disarmament proposals and endeavour to indicate a way to put them into practice by the adoption of a reasonable scheme of implementation, generally acceptable.

It is, of course, a satisfying experience that we have all gone through during the past weeks, as a result of the visit of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr. Krushchev, to the United States at the invitation of President Eisenhower. Permit me to express from this rostrum that, in our opinion, the President's decision at this time was a wise, courageous and statesmanlike one—a decision which I am sure, when history comes to be written, will rank as one of those great and decisive events which, from time to time, have taken place in the past. It is our firm conviction that this invitation and the reciprocal invitation by Chairman Krushchev to President Eisenhower to visit the Soviet Union later, are steps in the right direction on a road which will eventually lead to an easing of world tension, to a better understanding of each other by the two great powers and towards an eventual settlement by negotiation of the outstanding issues which have hitherto separated these two great nations from each other and prevented their close co-operation, which is surely necessary for the benefit of the rest of the world. We, for our part, are convinced that this exchange of visits and the subsequent events that must necessarily follow, are efforts worthy of great men to foster and improve goodwill among nations, which is so necessary for the removal of mutual suspicion and mistrust. This exchange of visits is certainly the culmination of the several promising features which have introduced some hope during the last few months' and we hope the beginning of a new chapter of more cordial and intimate international relationships has opened.

All that had happened before the visit of Chairman Krushchev pointed to a steadily improving climate of opinion in which the exchange of visits between Mr. Krushchev and President Eisenhower was a necessary and indeed imperative for the maintenance of this thaw in the ice of the cold war. We now have it on the highest authority that international disputes would be settled by negotiation rather than by force. We understand that the critical question of Berlin might be settled by early discussions and we are now closer than ever we were to an early meeting of the heads of government of the four great powers. These are all matters which augur well for the relaxation of tensions and for the attainment of world peace. All men of goodwill must pray that God may continue to guide and inspire the leaders of the world powers and leaders of all countries to continue to make every effort in this direction. The ice has been broken. A thaw has begun. A freeze can, however, set in. Every effort must be made to prevent this.

Need for Conciliation

IT is somewhat astonishing that there appear to be people at this time, who dislike the emergence of a conciliatory and more friendly feeling between the Soviet Union and the western powers, on the theory that it would lead to a weakening of the defensive arrangements made by the western powers and that it would make these powers let down their guard. Obviously, nothing could be more foolish or more dangerous than such specious arguments. It will not be expected that the mere relaxation of tension and the beginning of better understanding could lead to unilateral disarmament or reduction of the strength of defensive armaments on the part of either side. Disarmament, as I said before, must be a matter of multilateral agreements, acceptable to all and certainly acceptable

to the great powers under reasonable conditions of control and effective supervision. Even if a disarmament agreement is not reached, which God forbid, improved international relations will reduce frictions and prevent, at any rate for some time, any major conflict. Therefore, it is the imperative duty of all men of goodwill and certainly of the member states of our organization, to do everything possible to promote and foster the growth of better understanding among nations and especially among the great powers. This is surely not the time to talk of increasing armaments, even if it were merely to increase defensive strength.

Mr. Krushchev, in addressing this Assembly a week ago, used the opportunity to good purpose and made a forceful contribution to the cause of peace by making a forthright and categorical declaration for disarmament on behalf of the Soviet Government. It is true that the Soviet Union had made similar declarations and offers before. But this was the first occasion on which the head of the Soviet Government in person, stood before the assembled representatives of 82 nations and announced solemnly, on behalf of his government and his people, that "it is general and complete disarmament that will remove all the barriers that were raised during consideration of questions of partial disarmament and will clear the way for the establishment of comprehensive and complete control. What does the Soviet Government propose? The essence of our proposals is that over a period of four years all states should effect complete disarmament and should no longer have any means of waging war".

We for our part are considerably gratified that this firm declaration received from the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom and the Republic of France, as well as from the Secretary of State of the United States of America, a constructive response, when each of them stated that their governments

would give to Mr. Krushchev's declaration the serious and earnest consideration which it so obviously deserved. The distinguished representatives of the countries who have spoken here are also agreed that careful consideration should be given to the general principle of complete disarmament.

Not Empty Propaganda

IT would be easy for those who have been in the habit of decrying any general declarations to dismiss this as yet another act of propaganda. We will be the first to concede that it does not require much ingenuity to make an open statement in favour of complete and total disarmament in extremely general terms. We fully recognise that the difficulties which face us arise in the implementation of such a declaration. It will require but a moment's thought to realise how great these difficulties can be on details such as the question of control, the force or sanction behind such control, the necessity for inspection, the nature of the control body to be set up, its authority and its composition. Indeed, Mr. Krushchev himself realized the difficulties inherent in a proposal for total disarmament. He indicated in his address before this Assembly that the whole proposal could be rendered futile by the insistence on making measures of disarmament conditional upon such demands of control as the other states would be unable to satisfy in the existing conditions of an universal arms' race.

It may be assumed, in some quarters, that the solution to the question of disarmament under control, as envisaged by the Soviet Government, must be preceded by some degree of control before the process of disarmament itself commences. The Delegation of Ceylon has much pleasure in noting that, even on this crucial matter, Mr. Krushchev gave considerable hope of agreement when, just before he left for Moscow, he stated that, "the appropriate

inspection and control would function throughout the entire process of disarmament."

To think that there will be no great difficulties ahead of us would be indeed a naive supposition. But to think that these difficulties are insuperable would be indeed an extremely grave and unwarranted act of disillusion and lack of confidence, which my Delegation would be unable to share. Given a spirit of goodwill and mutual confidence, nothing is beyond the realms of possibility in international agreements on matters of dispute. The pith and substance of any negotiated solution to any problem, great or small, is the mutual confidence of the parties concerned. This is an essential requisite and, unless nations can learn to trust each other, very little progress is possible.

This is illustrated clearly in regard to the question of effective control in relation to disarmament, where the two great powers hold views which seem, at first sight, to be diametrically opposed to each other. We ourselves are inclined to think that a plan for total, or even partial, disarmament cannot succeed—indeed cannot even begin—unless there is established a control organ agreed on by both sides, an organ which will have authority to carry out an agreed plan of practical action. This kind of difficulty, however, should not derogate from the fact that the leader of the Soviet Government has now committed himself publicly and unequivocally to the general principle. The principle has also been accepted by leaders of the great powers. We expect, and I am sure every Delegation here represented does so too, that he will act to implement it in good faith.

Economic Development

APART from disarmament, it is our view that the other vital matter of importance which we should face and put our minds to is that of the economic development of the

less-developed countries of the world. This is a matter which is of crucial interest to countries such as my own who have been struggling since they regained independence during the last 15 years, to give their people a better and higher standard of living and more of the material advantages of life which are available to their fellowhuman beings in the more-developed areas of the world. We believe that the forms of government which we have voluntarily chosen as the political framework of our governmental system, would be jeopardised if the economic and social fabric, on which forms of government are necessarily based, fail to give to that political framework the substantial support it must have. The solution of the economic problems of the less-developed areas of the world has been, in our humble opinion, not only a challenge but an opportunity to the richer and materially advanced nations of the world. We look to the United Nations as the appropriate source for a solution of these difficult problems.

I have dealt at some length with disarmament because of its importance, but even total disarmament will not guarantee world peace or the happiness of all mankind unless we, at the same time, seek the eradication of hunger, poverty and want. There is too much of this in many parts of the world today. In consequence, there is much suffering and misery. These conditions create discontent and dissatisfaction and ultimately lead to revolution. We may disarm, but that alone will not lead to peace. No doubt, the world will be safe from destructive wars, but misery and unhappiness will remain and there will be very little security for anyone if we allow revolution to be bred of economic insufficiency. Therefore, I would now like to examine the question of economic development.

It is alarming that more than a half of the world's population belongs to what is called the under-developed areas. This is a

danger to themselves and to the rest of the world, even to those who are highly developed and who enjoy a high standard of living. With the alarming increase of population, particularly in the under-developed areas, the people in these areas are getting poorer and the standards of living are declining at a time when in some other areas standards are improving. There is an unhealthy imbalance.

The reports of the Economic and Social Council and the discussion in this Assembly have highlighted the importance of this matter and drawn attention to the urgent need to deal effectively with it. Some international action has been taken, in diverse ways and in different fields. Individual governments of many countries have increasingly grappled with it, but very little good can result without action on a wide front, with very large financial resources. Economic development affects the life of a people at many points and, unless we attack it at all these points, very little good will accrue.

I must here make it very clear that my Delegation is fully aware of the valuable help given by many countries to the lesser-developed countries, to help them improve their economic life. We are deeply appreciative of and grateful for this assistance. The Colombo Plan, towards which the more-developed members of the Commonwealth and the United States of America have contributed lavishly, has helped greatly. This unique co-operative international endeavour has been of great use in providing technological and scientific skill and know-how. The bilateral arrangements made by the United States, the U.S.S.R and the United Kingdom and other countries with the lesser-developed countries of the world have led to considerable economic aid. Private investment of capital, though not large, has helped although, unfortunately, such investment has helped a limited area, and more in respect of limited operations such as the extractive industries. And, more recently, there is the proposed Bank to be set up for the benefit of the Latin

American countries. These are all worthy of increasing international interest and support.

International Organs

THE problem of financing economic development in the under-developed countries is also receiving the attention of several international financial organs, existing and contemplated. First, there is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, whose capital was doubled recently. This institution finances only the direct foreign exchange cost of development projects and makes loans directly to governments and, where a government offers a guarantee, to private industry as well. Projects must be strictly bankable in order to qualify for loan assistance. This is as it should be. Second, there is the more recently established International Finance Corporation which, however, finances only projects run by private enterprises and again, rightly, on a strictly bankable basis. The Corporation, unlike the International Bank, finances both the foreign exchange and the domestic cost of a private project. Third, the United Nations, only last year, established the "Special Fund", the object of which is to finance, as an official introductory pamphlet aptly describes, the cost of "bringing interesting ideas to bankable shape". Finally, there remains the projected International Development Association, approved at the annual session of the International Bank which has just concluded. The principal aim of the institution is "to promote, by financing sound projects of high priority, the economic development of less-developed member countries whose needs cannot be adequately met under International Bank lending programs."

While all of these institutions do share in the task of financing economic development within the rather limited field of their respective spheres of responsibility, it is idle to expect that these institutions finally exhaust, among them, the scope for financing productive development in the under-developed

countries of the world. For notwithstanding all the measures taken by the United Nations on its own, or through its specialized agencies, as well as by the industrially advanced countries, through enlightened national policies, to promote economic development of these countries, and, moreover, notwithstanding all the conscious and determined efforts made by the under-developed countries themselves to press on with the national task of their own development, one must face the unpleasant truth that the rate of economic growth between the industrially advanced countries and the less-developed countries of the world is now widening instead of narrowing. In other words, rich countries are continuing to get richer, while the less-developed countries, in spite of all their development programmes, are getting relatively poorer. This widening disparity in rates of economic growth, it must be conceded, cannot conduce to international peace and understanding.

National development embraces not only economic investment, strictly so called, which is bankable but also, more importantly, economic investment, which is not of a self-liquidating character, as well as social investment, all of which it is now fashionable to identify with the provision of so-called infrastructure of development. The financial problem that faces under-developed countries now is that these latter categories of expenditure outlays are proving to be not only excessively burdensome for the available resources of the countries concerned but, more significantly, entail, in the process, such heavy drains on their foreign exchange resources, by reason of the direct and the indirect foreign costs their development programmes impose, that much needed national development at an adequate rate to make economic growth self-generating continues to be severely checked.

Dispassionate analysis will, thus, show that the core of the problem of financing economic development through international action—for the balance of payment impact of national

development of under-developed countries can be solved only internationally—still remains. It is for this reason that the Ceylon Delegation would urge that member nations should continue to give their unremitting attention to the question of establishing a United Nations Capital Development Fund, which should constitute the reservoir of finances that can fill the important lacuna in the existing scheme of international financial arrangements set up to promote economic development. This is a question which we should not ignore. On the contrary, it should continue to engage our attention and we should not allow ourselves to be led astray by suggestions that seek to identify the proposed International Development Association as offering the only or a sufficient and satisfactory solution, through international action, to the financial problem facing the under-developed countries.

Price Stabilization

THERE are, of course, other aspects of economic development than the financial aspect. I do not propose to take up your time as these can be dealt with at a later stage, particularly the very important problem of price stabilization. I would only draw the attention of this Assembly to the fact that this question has been considered by the Economic and Social Council and by the members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, commonly known as GATT. There has been a widespread demand from many parts of the world for some scheme of price stabilization. For nearly ten years I was closely connected with GATT and in 1956, as its Chairman, I endeavoured along with many others, to win the co-operation of all countries, particularly the more advanced countries, without whose help such a scheme would not be possible, but all our efforts were in vain. What makes the position worse in that price stabilization schemes in regard to some agricultural commodities, like wheat and sugar, have been set up by international

agreement. The result has been as expected. In the case of these commodities, the agreements have led to a great degree of price stability. Of course, in these commodities, the bigger countries were greatly interested. On the other hand, in the case of rubber, the International Rubber Study Group has been proposing an international agreement during the last thirteen or fourteen years of its existence and has not succeeded yet. I hope something will be done even now to free those agricultural commodities on which the entire economy, or the greater part of the economy, of some countries depends from the fluctuations of world market prices, and create such stability as will enable them to work out their economic plans with some degree of certainty.

Before I conclude these very general remarks on this important matter, I would like to invite attention to the close connection which it has to the other matter I discussed earlier, namely disarmament. The following points briefly set out are worth some consideration.

1. Disarmament and economic development are both basic and fundamental factors in the accomplishment of the aim of the United Nations Charter to achieve world peace and improve living standards.

2. Both are essentially human problems, the solution of which require an united effort of all peoples, based on goodwill, understanding and confidence.
3. The extreme difficulty of providing for economic development adequately without reducing or abolishing the financial burden of armaments. One of the strongest objections raised against the provision of more money for economic development by the great powers, is the already crushing burden of defence expenditure. Therefore, if an era of peace and plenty is to begin, we must hasten disarmament. President Eisenhower has said that his government is ready to ask its people to join with all nations in directing a substantial percentage of the savings which would be achieved by disarmament to a Fund for World Aid. The Soviet Union has urged a percentage cut on armament expenditure, to be used for economic developments. Disarmament has thus to be brought about if only to enable adequate support for economic development.

Mahavihara—Lanka's First Monastery

WILLIAM PEIRIS

MAHAVIHARA, the first monastery to be built in Lanka, is to be restored to its pristine glory. A special body composed of the Sangha and laity is to be constituted to manage its affairs.

The origin of the Mahavihara, the great monastery, dates back to that distant day in the third century B. C. when Emperor Asoka's son, Thera Mahinda, brought the gift of Buddhism to Lanka. On the day of his arrival, Mahinda met King Devanampiyatissa on the rock of Mihintale and converted him and his retinue to the new faith. The next day, on the king's invitation, Mahinda and his fellow theras arrived at Anuradhapura, the capital, where they received a rousing welcome. In the pleasant Nandana garden, Mahinda preached the new doctrine to a vast gathering, converting them to Buddhism.

As evening fell, says the *Mahavamsa*, the theras rose to leave for Mihintale when the king approached Mahinda and said: "The mountain is far away, but here in the Nandana garden is a pleasant place to rest". Mahinda said: "It is not a fit place for us, being too close to the city". The king rejoined: "The Mahamegha Park is neither too far nor too near; pleasant it is, and water and shade abound there; may it please you to rest there". Mahinda consented. From the Nandana garden the king himself led the theras to the Mahamegha Park where they spent the night in the king's pavilion.

The next morning the king went to the Mahamegha Park and offered flowers in homage to the theras and enquired whether their rest was pleasant. Mahinda replied that it was so. The king then said: "Is an *arama* allowed to the brotherhood, Sir?" "It is allowed", replied Mahinda, and related to the king the story of the presentation of

Veluvanarama to the Buddha by the Magadha king Bimbisara. "It is well", said the king, and taking a beautiful vase he poured water (in token of giving) over the hand of Mahinda, uttering the words: "This Mahamegha Park I gift to the brotherhood". As the water fell on the ground, the earth quaked, says *Mahavamsa*. "Why does the earth quake?" enquired the king. "Because the doctrine of the Buddha is henceforth founded in the Island", replied Mahinda.

Several Places

IN the course of the day, according to *Mahavamsa*, Mahinda went to several places in the Mahamegha Park with the king and told him: "Already in the lifetime of three Buddhas there had been in this park a *malaka* (a space marked off and usually terraced) for carrying out the duties of the brotherhood, O king, and it will be so once more". When the Buddha Kakusandha visited the spot it bore the name of Mahatittha Park, said Mahinda to the king, and Lanka and its capital were known respectively as Ojadipa and Abhaya. The king himself bore the latter name. King Abhaya gifted the Mahatittha Park to the Buddha Kakusandha. During the visit of Konagamana, the second Buddha of the present *kalpa* (aeon), the name of the park was Mahanoma, the name of the country was Varadipa, the name of its capital was Vaddhamana and the name of the king was Samiddha. King Samiddha gifted the Mahanoma Park to the Buddha Konagamana. Lanka was known as Mandadipa at the time of the visit of the Buddha Kassapa. Its capital bore the name of Visala. Jayanta was the king and the park was known as Mahasagara. King Jayanta gifted the Mahasagara Park to the Buddha Kassapa. On the

last of his three visits to Ceylon long before Vijaya arrived in the country and founded the Sinhala nation, the Buddha Gotama visited the spot where the Mahamegha Park stood.

Devanampiyatissa had a number of magnificent buildings erected in the Mahamegha Park for the use of the brotherhood. They were surrounded by as many as 32 *malakas*. Five of the buildings were dedicated to Mahinda himself. "The wise king", says *Mahavamsa*, "whose name contains the words 'beloved of the gods', patronizing the great thera Mahinda, of spotless mind, first built here in Lanka this Mahavihara."

Successive kings not only embellished the existing buildings of the Mahavihara but also added new buildings to it. King Datusena had its walls painted with ornamental designs, engaging the services of the most talented artists of the day. Tissa built twelve edifices there while Samghabodhi erected a hall where on his orders food was distributed continuously by tickets. Abhaya and Gotabhaya constructed stone-pavilions and Meghavannabhaya erected several *parivenas* there.

Home of Buddhism

FOR many centuries the Mahavihara was renowned for the saintliness of its theras and recognised as the home of *Theravada* Buddhism. It attracted scholars from many parts of the then known world. One of the most notable of them was the Indian thera Buddhaghosa who wrote the monumental commentary *Vissudhimagga* (The Path of Purification) which is acknowledged by students of Buddhism all the world over as the most authentic and reliable non-canonical work.

The story of how Buddhaghosa came to the Mahavihara is an interesting one. He entered the Order of Bhikkhus in India under a teacher named Revata Mahathera. In the vihara where he lived, he wrote two

books entitled *Nanodaya* and *Atthasalini*, and then undertook a short commentary on the *Tripitaka*. His teacher thereupon told him: "Only the texts, not the commentaries, have been brought from Ceylon, the traditions of the teachers are not available. In Ceylon authoritative and quite orthodox commentaries compiled by Mahinda are extant in the Sinhala language. Go there, study them and translate them into the Magadhi language. They will benefit all". Buddhaghosa then came to the Mahavihara in the reign of King Mahanama (458-480 A. C.). In the Mahapadana Hall of the Mahavihara, Buddhaghosa heard the Sinhala commentary and the *Theravada* tradition from Sangapala Thera. To enable him to write a commentary to the *Tripitaka*, Buddhaghosa asked for access to all the books, but the Order of Theras gave him only two stanzas to test his competence for the task. Upon these two stanzas he wrote *Vissudhimagga*, a work honoured as a sacred text by *Theravada* teachers. The Mahavihara Order of Theras at once acclaimed him a genius and gave him all the books. Living in the Mahavihara, he translated them from Sinhala into the Magadhi language. Having finished his task, he returned home.

Fa Hien, the Chinese traveller who visited Ceylon in the fifth century A. C., counted as many as 3,000 resident bhikkhus in the Mahavihara. One of them, he says, was so saintly that people of the country believed him to be an Arahant. When he was lying on his sick-bed, the king visited him, and, in the presence of the assembled bhikkhus, enquired whether he was an Arahant. The thera replied that he was. Shortly afterwards he died and the king had his body cremated upon a pyre of sandalwood thirty feet high. Fa Hien was among the vast gathering present at the cremation.

For nine years the Mahavihara was desolate, says *Mahavamsa*, as the result of a king's decree that "whosoever gives food to

a bhikkhu dwelling in the Mahavihara is liable to a fine of a hundred (pieces of money) ". A therā named Samghamitta was responsible for this royal enactment. Samghamitta who performed the consecration ceremony of King Mahasena (325-352 A. C.) won the king's favour, and convinced him that the bhikkhus of the Mahavihara did not teach the true doctrine and that they of the Abhayagirivihara alone taught the true doctrine. Thereupon the king enacted the law prohibiting the giving of alms to bhikkhus of the Mahavihara who for want of food abandoned it and went to Malaya and Rohana. Further, Samghamitta persuaded the king that "ownerless land belongs to the king", and had some of the buildings of the Mahavihara destroyed. The materials of the demolished buildings were used to erect magnificent buildings in the Abhayagirivihara. Thus "the king wrought many a deed of wrong".

A minister named Meghavannabhaya who was wroth with the king for destroying the

Mahavihara became a rebel. He went to Malaya where he raised a powerful army, and marching to Anuradhapura to wage war with the king pitched his camp. The king himself pitched his camp, ready for battle. The rebel had plenty of delicious food which he had brought from Malaya. In the night he decided to share the food with the king who was his friend and went to the king's camp taking the food himself. The king was surprised, but as Meghavannabhaya had been his friend he took the meal and asked his minister why he had become a rebel. The minister replied that he had done so because the king had destroyed the Mahavihara. "I will rebuild the vihara; forgive me my fault", said the king. True to his word the king rebuilt the Mahavihara, Meghavannabhaya himself erecting several *parivenas* there. The bhikkhus returned and reoccupied the Mahavihara. One of the king's wives was so angry about the destruction of the Mahavihara that she had the wicked therā Samghamitta done to death by an assassin.

The Veddah Camp at Pannichenkerny

NEIL KULATUNGE

VEDDAH villages in Ceylon—some of the most backward areas in this country—are undergoing a transformation as a result of the untiring efforts of an enthusiastic group of students from a leading Colombo school.

These students, all from Nalanda Vidyalaya, Colombo, have formed themselves into a social service league and volunteered to help the backward communities in Ceylon. Their method of help is to set up work camps in the villages and with the assistance of

the Government help these people to lead a more comfortable life. In doing so the students have sacrificed their own comforts and even their vacations to help a backward community to lead a better life.

Already the boys have worked in five projects—the first at Kanatholuwa in December 1958, the second at Manawa in April 1959, the third a follow up of Kanatholuwa, the fourth at Kuliyaipitiya and the fifth a joint project at Pannichenkerny and Pollebedda.

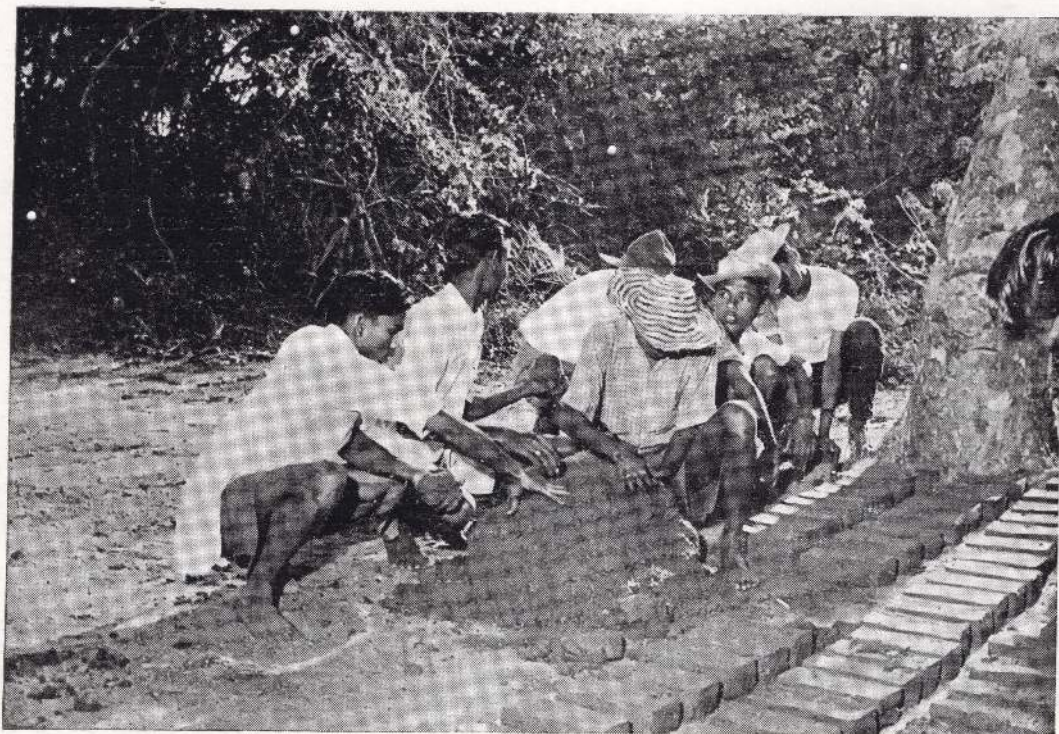
Pannichenkerny, a little village thirty seven miles from Batticaloa along the Trincomalee Ferry Road, is the last of the villages that went through this transformation. Here thirty students and seven teachers from the Nalanda Vidyalaya along with fifteen students and two teachers from the Government Central College, Wantharamullai, set up camp on August 24 and worked throughout the day for one week fencing the settlement, sinking wells, constructing bathrooms, constructing a Rural Development Hall, and ridging a twelve acre plot of land for paddy cultivation.

Anyone visiting the camp during this time would have been highly impressed by the tremendous enthusiasm shown by these students whose ages varied from 12 to 20 years. I for one, was particularly impressed by the cheerful spirit shown by these students while getting about their work. Mixing freely with the people of the area these boys took a delight in whatever they did to help this less fortunate set of people. The Pannichenkerny Veddah settlement covers an area of 77 acres, has 105 families and a population of 485.

They live in unhygienic small dingy huts and eke out an existence by collecting bees honey in the jungles, fishing in lagoons and by chena cultivation.

Once a week the women of the village are given instructions in sewing by an Instructor provided by the Government

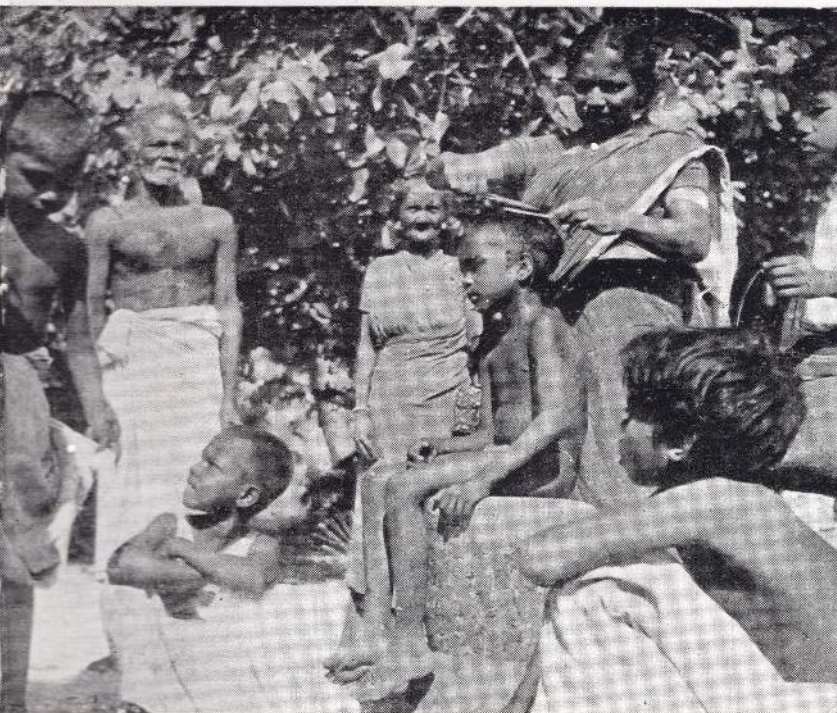




▲
Students engaged in making bricks
which they later used to build an
addition to the school



►
Its milk feeding time in
the village and the little children
gather round to collect their
daily ration of milk



Veddah boys queue up to get their hair cut by one of the women volunteers who helped in the Veddah camp



Students helping to sink a well

Semi-Nomadic Life

THIS particular community of Veddahs are coastal Veddahs and have moved into this village from the jungles several years ago. They still lead a semi-nomadic life although they have been given small holdings of land under village expansion schemes.

These Veddahs have been provided with a few Type Plan houses, but they are all in a dilapidated state. When questioned they pointed out that the normal Type Plan houses were too large and unwieldy for them and they found it difficult to maintain them. They further stated that they required 350 cadjans for rethatching each roof annually and that cost them Rs. 100 which they could not afford. They have, therefore, now moved into little cadjan huts which were more economical and better suited for their method of life.

These Veddahs were brought under the Backward Communities Development Scheme of the Department of Rural Development in 1951. Although no projects of an intensive and continuous nature were undertaken in any of these settlements, I understand the services of various Departments, such as Land, Education, Health, Agriculture, etc., have reached them from time to time.



Veddah children

A survey carried out by the Rural Development Officer of the area revealed that there were only 6 wells for the entire settlement. There were no latrines at all and the closest dispensary was three miles away.

There was no sign of permanent employment either within the settlement or in the neighbourhood. The men were engaged in seasonal occupations and the women had no employment at all.

This survey also revealed that there was no programme of agricultural development. Although land had been alienated there have been major factors limiting their development such as lack of irrigation facilities for paddy cultivation, adverse weather conditions, inferiority of the soil and absence of credit facilities. The problem of stray cattle was also one of the causes which had prevented the allottees from developing their land.

In view of these difficulties these Veddahs have been compelled to continue their

traditional form of agriculture, namely chena cultivation. Even this had not proved beneficial to them owing to unfavourable conditions. A few coconut palms cultivated haphazardly was the only evidence of a permanent crop.

The majority of these families live on one poor meal a day. Often even this meal consists of wild yams called "Nirithala" and small fish from the lagoons and water holes.

Vast Change

WHEN I questioned Karupi, fifty-year old Veddah woman who had been brought to the village when she was a little girl she confirmed this shyly and admitted that the last square meal she had was three days before from the rations distributed by the social service workers. Since then she had been living on scraps collected from the village.

(Continued on page 21)



Karupi—a fifty year old Veddah woman who was brought into the village when she was a little girl



Coir Mats

An Ambassador Speaks

WE print below an account of two speeches made by Ceylon's Ambassador to the United States of America, Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene. The first is the Convocation Day address given at Wilson Collegé, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on October 17. The second address was made at the United Nations Luncheon at Cleveland. The subject was the role of small nations and world peace.

Introducing the Ambassador, the President of the College, Mr. Paul Swain Havens, recalled that three years earlier Mr. Gunawardene had inaugurated the world affairs' forum sponsored in Cleveland, and it was a tribute to his popularity and importance that he had been invited again to deliver that address.

The Ambassador, who gave an Asian view on world affairs, said that it was most encouraging that the people of Chambersburg, among whom he had many good friends, showed a continuing interest in world affairs. No longer could a nation live unto itself alone. Whatever happened in the most remote parts of the world had the widest repercussions. Responsibility could not be shrugged off with an "I am not my bother's keeper." Circumstances had forced on the world the concept of collective responsibility. And no nation had a greater responsibility than the United States with its prosperity and tremendous resources. It was a challenge and at the same time an unparalleled opportunity for service.

Throughout the world there was an awakening. In Asia and Africa newly independent nations were striving to raise the standards of living of their people. Large areas which Western nations had previously occupied in their search for wealth and markets had been returned to their rightful owners. But the alien domination had destroyed ways of life, systems of government,

economic patterns which had been developed over centuries to suit the genius of the peoples. So in a sense they were now starting from scratch. It was inevitable that in their efforts to devise a new way of life these nations should make mistakes. Yet they preferred to make mistakes and to learn from them rather than be told that this or that way of life was best for them. They should be helped on their feet with sympathy and understanding, not dragged along and compelled to follow a particular path.

Asia's Poverty

THE Asian countries asked for little. It was almost impossible for Americans, happy in their material well-being and prosperity, to appreciate the stark poverty that plagued many parts of Asia. Two square meals a day, a shelter over their heads, a shirt on their backs and work to do, was what millions of Asia wanted desperately today. It was not too much to ask. What many in the West did not realize was that all the foreign aid poured into Asia represented only a microscopic fraction of the huge sums these countries themselves were spending from their own resources for making a better life for their peoples. They were grateful for the help given ; but they did not ask for charity.

This, said the speaker, brought him to the question that never seemed to be far from the minds of Americans. "How great a threat did Communism pose in Asia ?" Asia with its emphasis on spiritual values, its structures of village life which were democratic long before the word "democracy" was coined, would not willingly follow a way of life that was an utter negation of all it held dear. Time, however, was an important factor. No government in Asia, however wedded it was to the concept of democracy,

could last long unless it delivered the goods. And the goods were the simple necessities of life, the basic requirements he had enumerated earlier. Asia was not interested in pie in the sky decades ahead. Communism could only thrive in squalor, dirt, poverty and disease. And one part of the world could not live in luxury while millions wallowed in misery. Such a disparity could only breed jealousy and envy, the most fruitful causes of war.

The United Nations had been conceived in a glow of optimism and goodwill. It crystallized the hopes of good men through the ages, of Wendel Wilkie's "one world." The veto was introduced, on the insistence of the United States, as a safeguard. It had proved the most stultifying influence in the United Nations. And the "cold war" had slowly but surely drawn nations apart instead of together. Everybody fully realized the utter destruction and annihilation that would follow the next war—a nuclear war. There could be no question of localizing war. Still, thousands of millions of dollars, pounds, roubles and the currencies of the world were being poured into the development of more effective and horrible weapons of war. It was ironical that a fraction of this expense could assure to the peoples of Asia a happier, fuller and better life. And this, in turn, could only increase the general prosperity of the world.

The peoples of Asia were particularly sensitive to the term "neutral" and "uncommitted" applied so loosely to them. Just because they refused to be part of one or the other of the two blocs the world had been arbitrarily divided into, they were viewed with suspicion, as if there was some particular virtue in being in one camp or the other. They realized fully that by committing themselves to one side or the other they would only be increasing tension in an already tense world. Similarly, they were committed fully to one goal—securing a better life for their peoples. They had no

time to indulge in the luxury of "isms". That was a fact too few realized sufficiently.

Sympathy and Understanding

ABOVE all Asia needed sympathy and understanding. It would not tolerate patronage in any form. The peoples of Asia took pride in their ancient cultures, skills and spiritual values. In helping them the West could learn, too, something of value from them. Asia required, and would take, help gratefully. But only if it was given graciously and with understanding. Various defence pacts had been drawn up for Asia. SEATO and CENTO had succeeded in attracting only a few countries of Asia whose populations represented but a small fraction of the teeming millions of that vast continent. Here was Asia's answer to the "cold war".

The Americans had played an important role in the world. Their very origins were based on democracy. By bringing moral pressure to bear they had freed millions from colonial domination. They had rebuilt whole nations, placed them on their feet again. They had proved the most magnanimous of foes. Intrinsically they were warm-hearted and generous. They coveted nobody else's land or goods. After the last war they could have dominated the world if they so desired, so unquestioned was their power. Their prosperity and power gave them a responsibility they could not shirk. The United States was a nation of destiny. By facing up to the challenge it could ensure lasting peace and stability in the world.

* * * * *

THE small nations of the world were playing an increasingly important role in international affairs. Ceylon, for example, had been elected to serve on several United Nations organs and international agencies, said Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardene, Ambassador for Ceylon in the United States, addressing over 500 leading Cleveland citizens at an United Nations luncheon on October 23rd.

Ambassador Gunawardene who spoke on the "Role of the Smaller Nations in the United Nations", recalled the days of the Great Powers when the smaller nations of the world were either under domination or afraid to raise their voices even if they were independent. Those were the days of the balance of power concept when, whether they liked it or not, the small nations were browbeaten into joining alliances they had no interest in. They were just pawns in the game of power politics.

Since the end of World War Two, however, the picture had changed completely. The discovery of nuclear weapons had made the balance of power concept obsolete and totally ineffective. Nation after nation in Asia, Africa and in other parts of the world had regained its freedom. In the early days of the United Nations some of the Great Powers still clung to the theory that by cajoling, or threatening, the smaller nations could be made to toe the line.

The Ambassador said he felt sure he would be pardoned if he used the example of his country, Ceylon, to illustrate the change of attitude towards the smaller nations, not only in the United Nations, but also in the world generally. Ever since Ceylon gained its independence in 1948 it had been seeking admission to the United Nations. At first one Great Power had questioned its sovereign status. By its independent foreign policy and trade relations Ceylon had given convincing proof that it enjoyed full sovereignty. Then, because of the development of the "cold war" it became, together with several other small countries, involved in what was vulgarly termed "horse-trading", part of a "package deal".

Sovereignty Unquestioned

WHAT was significant was, however, that all members of the United Nations were sympathetic towards Ceylon and wanted it in the United Nations. None any longer

questioned its sovereignty. All were convinced of its sincerity and ability. Still, because neither of the two blocs would give in lest such action be construed as weakness, nearly 20 nations knocked on the door of the United Nations, and waited. Fortunately when least expected one side relented. There was a crack and all the nations seeking admission were admitted.

Previously, however, Ceylon had taken a lead in stimulating Asian public opinion, in focussing world attention on the problems of Asia. It was in Colombo that the leaders of the Commonwealth met and, at the urging of Ceylon's Premier then, the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake, conceived the Colombo Plan which has since done so much for Asia in the field of economic development. It was Ceylon that pressed for the expansion of the scheme to cover not only Asian members of the Commonwealth but other countries like Thailand and Vietnam who were not members.

Then again it was in Colombo that another Prime Minister of Ceylon, Sir John Kotelawala, a few years later convened a meeting of Asian Premiers who came to be known as the Colombo Powers. This was a comparatively small meeting where, for the first time, the Asian awakening was realised, as well as the tremendous moral force Asia could generate. Naturally all was not plain sailing. For the first time Asian countries big and small, though all had one thing in common, their recent release from colonial domination, were meeting to discuss mutual problems. The smallest country had an equal voice with the largest. All had, if not a common heritage, similar attitudes to the important issues of life. A feeling of solidarity was born here which has since grown and is reflected in an almost unanimous attitude to world problems.

At first the Great Powers were either suspicious or scornful of the Colombo Powers. Suspicious, because they imagined these countries might be ganging up against them,

plotting a form of political blackmail. They were scornful, because these countries possessed neither military power, nor industrial strength. But it became evident from the communiques issued at the conclusion of that historic meeting in Colombo that the countries concerned were committed to the support of moral principles, to a "third force" which would act as a buffer between the two great giants whose sparring had brought the world to the brink of war.

Bandung Conference

A BIGGER meeting of Asian and African countries attended the Bandung Conference. The world was amazed when this meeting utterly rejected a demand that it should unequivocally denounce "western imperialism". Instead the meeting denounced imperialism in any form. It was due to this strictly objective approach that the voice of Asia was listened to at Geneva and a settlement of the Indo Chinese war reached.

Since its admission to the United Nations Ceylon had persistently championed the cause of countries still under foreign domination and had striven unceasingly to bring about better understanding in the world. Its efforts were being increasingly recognized by its election to membership of several U. N. bodies, the most recent being election to the Security Council. He himself, said the Ambassador had been elected Vice President of the General Assembly of the United Nations polling with the United States representative the highest number of votes cast till then—74. Last year he had been elected Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, and this year had been re-elected to that office.

The experience of Ceylon was matched by many small countries who were playing an important role in world affairs today. They were trusted because they spoke not from a position of military but of moral and spiritual strength. It was most important for

the peace of the world that they should be allowed to continue their efforts. It was fully appreciated now that the smaller nations of the world, particularly those in Asia, adopted an independent attitude to world problems, not because they were afraid of involvement in one side or another, but because they honestly felt such an attitude would lead to a lessening of tension. Risks were inherent in such an attitude. They were frequently subjected to pressure by both sides. Financial, technical and other aid could be withheld because they did not conform to a desired pattern. Yet they were willing to take this risk rather than sacrifice principles.

Most encouraging was the fact that the independent attitude of the smaller nations, frequently termed "neutralist" and "uncommitted" was being increasingly appreciated by the world. In the United Nations the smaller nations spoke with an equal voice. They were making a most valuable contribution towards the maintenance of peace in the world.

Vital Role

CEYLON spearheaded the campaign for the admission of 18 new nations to membership of the United Nations. When the world hung on the brink of war twice in recent years—during the Suez and Hungarian crises—the small nations played a vital role in preserving a sense of balance. It was largely due to their efforts that the United Nations Emergency Force, of seven member nations was created during the Suez crisis. Their role was recognized when the small nations were elected to form the Advisory Board for that Emergency Force.

Then when the crisis arose in Hungary the entire five-member Committee on the Problem of Hungary comprised small nations, Ceylon being one of them. When the Cyprus and Algerian problems developed, again the small nations were called

upon to play an important part. All these, however, were special problems that had to be tackled as they arose.

Less spectacular perhaps, but just as useful was the part played and was still being played by the small nations in the standing organs of the United Nations, in the day-to-day functions of that body.

In the field of economic development, the small nations had long campaigned for recognition of the need of under-developed areas of the world. It was largely due to their persistence that financial, technical and

other types of aid were flowing in ever increasing quantities to these areas. The small nations were prominent in the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. All Commissions appointed by the United Nations to study the questions of Tegeloland, the Cameroons, Somaliland had been entrusted to them.

The small nations stood four square against nuclear armament. They had never ceased to urge a ban on nuclear tests. They were in the forefront of the campaign for nuclear disarmament, the Ambassador concluded.

THE VEDDAH CAMP AT PANNICHENKERNY

(Continued from page 16)

Karupi and other Veddahs living in this settlement have undergone a vast change in their social habits owing to their close contact with the Tamil population of the area. However, they still adhere to their traditional habits and customs such as occult cures, charms and rituals.

Mr. E. E. de Niese, a retired Government officer who lives close to this settlement, has some interesting stories to relate about these Veddahs. He recalled that these people were moved into this settlement 15 years ago. At that time they wore hardly any clothes and knew neither Sinhalese nor Tamil.

Gradually with their close association with the villagers their standard of living too had been raised. Today the majority of these people speak Tamil and many of them are married either to Sinhalese or Tamils.

The Veddahs of Pannichenkerny are a hard lot who have gone through immense difficulties. Most of them are insensitive to change and are content with their present way of life. However with this new approach and the start given by these voluntary workers it is hoped that they will change their attitude towards life and attempt to lead a more comfortable life in the future.

Sixth International Exhibition of Photography

ACCORDING to available records one Mr. Palmer brought the first camera to Ceylon on 24th June, 1856. The history of Photography in Ceylon is, therefore, as old as the invention of photography itself. A quarter century ago, a band of talented exponents of this art headed by the late Lionel Wendt organised themselves into the Photographic Society of Ceylon.

Membership in the Photographic Society of Ceylon is open to all those interested in photography. This year it held its sixth International Exhibition of Photography, to which contributions were received from 18 countries, including the U.S.S.R. which has done so for the first time in the history of

My wife is a maker-up

(A. Steshanov)

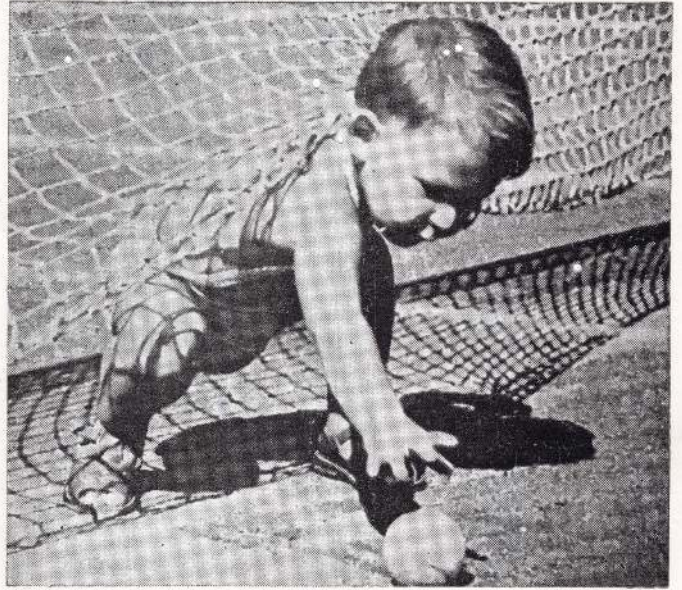


Ein Geheimnis

(Leopold Fischer)

these Exhibitions. The International Exhibition is of great value to photographers because it brings to their view new techniques and new styles that are being adopted by the world's best photographers.

The Trustees of the Lionel Wendt Memorial Centre have now made it possible for the Photographic Society of Ceylon to have their studios and dark rooms in the Centre itself. These spacious new premises are located between the Art Gallery and the Theatre. Being situated in such a central spot, it should now be possible for the Society to go ahead with its aims of fostering the art of photography in the Island, which it hopes to do by organising classes for beginners, regular exhibitions and programmes of films.



Ball Boy (I. Mezody) ►



◄ Floral Artist (D. C. L. Amarasinghe)

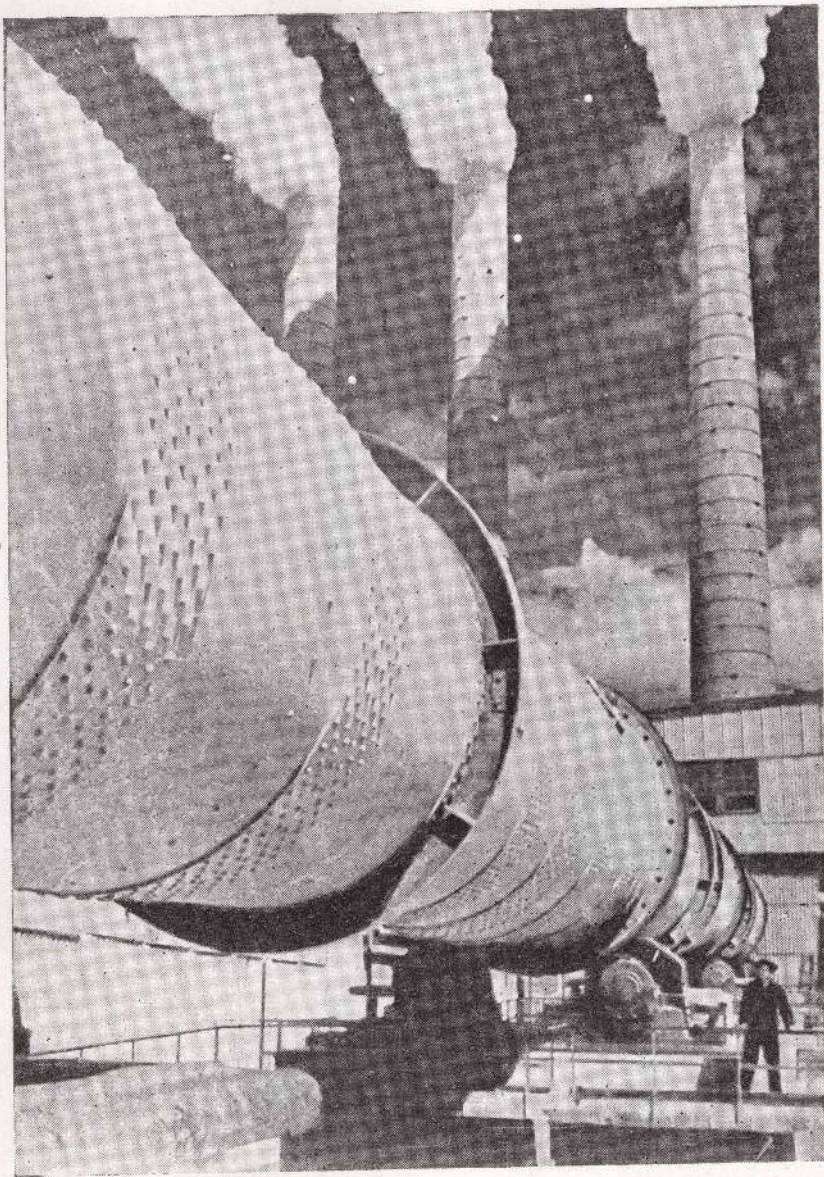


▲ The Corridor of Ages

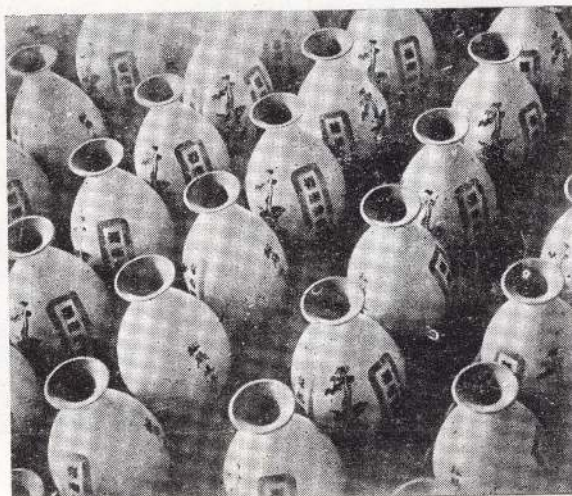
(George Wickremasinghe)



◀ Happy Day (Victor Skita)



◀ A Cement Factory
(V. Tarasevitch)



Bottles (Yuen Kok Leng) ▶



“ Love in the Afternoon ”

(A. C. M. Zahir)



Sir Arthur Ranasinha, Ceylon's Ambassador in Rome at the Twenty-third Bari Fair

Foreign Affairs

CEYLON was one of the countries which participated officially in the Twenty-third Bari Fair held in Italy recently. A special day—called Ceylon Day—was allotted to Ceylon. The Ambassador of Ceylon, Sir Arthur Ranasinha, was present at the ceremony. He was met by the Fair authorities at the entrance to the Fair grounds and conducted to the Ceylon pavilion, where as guest of honour, he was received by Prof. Dell'Andro, the Mayor of Bari, Prof. Tridente, the President of the Fair, Dr. Triggiani, the vice-President, and other officials.

In welcoming Sir Arthur to the city, Prof. Dell'Andro, the Mayor, expressed the certain-

ty that Ceylon's participation in the Levant Fair was not merely the expression of a desire to increase trade between the two countries but more, the basis of a larger exchange of ideas and cultural contacts. Prof. Dell'Andro concluded with the hope that ties between Italy and Ceylon would grow closer in every aspect.

Prof. Tridente said, "Last year, Italo-Ceylon trade presented a positive balance in your favour of a little over 1½ milliard lire, notwithstanding the fact that our exports showed an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year, while yours showed an increase of 7.6 per cent. Considering the whole picture, however, the actual volume



Mr. J. D. Weerasekera, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industries, spoke on behalf of the Ceylon Government at the opening of the Russian Trade Exhibition in Colombo

Prince Sadrudin, son of late Aga Khan, on a U. N. Refugee Mission in Asia at Temple Trees—when he called on the Prime Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake

of trade in both directions is small when considered against the full potentiality and the basis of the Trade Treaty that exists between both countries. We know, for example, that a large section of Italian products is unknown in your market. And yet, our country produces a very large range of goods. There is also the other aspect, the possibility of a strong technico-economic collaboration between both countries, for building up complementary economies, and aid in development programmes."

Replying to the address of welcome Sir Arthur Ranasinha stated that it was the intention of the Government of Ceylon to have relations with Italy not only in the field of trade but also on the plane of cultural matters. "It is surely through the exchange of ideas," said the Ambassador, "that foundations are laid for wider and deeper relations including the field of commerce, thus providing the basis of the well-being of the people."

After the ceremony, Sir Arthur and Lady Ranasinha, accompanied by Prof. Tridente, and Dr. Posca, representative of the Questore, visited the pavilions of the other countries on the fair grounds.



United States Aid

THE Prime Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake recently received, on behalf of the people of Ceylon, United States science equipment that



The opening ceremony in connection with the Russian Trade and Commerce Exhibition in Colombo

will help to expand science education in Ceylon's secondary schools.

Mr. Bernard A. Gufler, United States Ambassador to Ceylon, presented the equipment at a ceremony held at "Temple Trees".

The gift was made under the joint Ceylon-United States science education project started last year. To date the United States has made available Rs. 1,330,000 to the project.

Mr. Dahanayake receiving the gifts thanked the United States Government for the valuable and precious equipment given to Ceylon.

He said that one of the earliest projects he undertook as Education Minister was to make the teaching of science more popular and extensive in our schools. This scheme was

introduced under the able guidance of the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. There were nearly 8,000 Government schools, but up to 1956 the teaching of science was something unknown to the majority of these schools.

The Ministry of Education introduced a comprehensive scheme under which students from the rural schools were able to pursue education in science subjects. A new syllabus was also introduced for the teaching of general science in schools.

The results of this scheme so far have been excellent. It was a matter of joy that the United States had helped Ceylon in this field. They could not have helped in a better way.

These gifts which ranged from CARE milk to technical equipment would go a long way in the upliftment and economic emancipation of the people of Ceylon, added the Prime Minister.

Visitors admiring a model of the Sputnik and the Lunik at the Russian Exhibition in Colombo





▲ Picture taken on Russian National Day which was celebrated in Colombo. The Ceylon Premier is also in the picture



Two mobile health units were gifted to the Health Ministry recently by CARE. Picture shows Mr. Kamstra, Director of CARE, the Minister of Health, Senator A. P. Jayasuriya, and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Mr. W. J. A. Van Langenberg, inspecting the mobile health unit after the handing-over ceremony.

Soviet Trade and Industrial Exhibition Opened

A SOVIET Trade and Industrial Exhibition was opened on November 4, at the Vihare Maha Devi Park in Colombo by the Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. P. N. Houmykin, who specially came from the U. S. S. R.

Mr. Houmykin speaking on the occasion said that the exhibition was designed to further trade between Ceylon and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was a multi-national State. Relations between major and minor nationalities in the Soviet Union were built on the principles of national policy laid down



▲ Air Chief Marshall, Sir Thomas Pike (right), Chief of Air Staff to the R. A. F. with the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Mr. W. Dahanayake, at Temple Trees, Colombo, recently. Sir Thomas was on a visit to Ceylon



◀ The Prime Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake, received on behalf of the people of Ceylon a microscope—a token presentation of the Science equipment gifted by the United States under the Ceylon-America Economic and Technical Co-operation Programme

The presentation was made at "Temple Trees" by Mr. Bernard A. Gufler, United States Ambassador in Ceylon

by Lenin. He said that the Soviet Union was today a mighty industrial power. They had launched artificial satellites and the pennant of the Soviet Union was now on the moon.

The Soviet automatic inter-planetary station Lunik III had circled the moon and at a command from the Earth had taken photographs of its hidden side. Through special radio-technical systems these photographs had been transmitted along hundreds of thousands of kilometers of space to the earth and received by Soviet scientific institutions which were now studying them.

Referring to industrial activity, Mr. Houmykin said that in 1958 the gross output was 36 times greater than that of 1913. During the current year production of steel would



Prince Sadrudin at the lunch given in his honour by the Prime Minister

rise to 60 million tons, petroleum to 129 million tons and electric power output to 260 billion Kilowatt hours. The per capita national income in the U. S. S. R. during 1958 surpassed that of 1913 by more than 15 times. There was no unemployment in the Soviet Union. In 1959-60 all Soviet workers would have a 7 hour day.

Aid to Under-Developed Countries

THE Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister further said that the U. S. S. R. was actively rendering economic and technical assistance to under-developed countries. The Government of the Soviet Union would also struggle in the future for the relaxation of international tension, for the prevention of war and for settling disputes through negotiations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industries and Fisheries, Mr. J. D.

Weerasekera, in the course of his speech said that the U. S. S. R. was affording technical assistance credit to Ceylon in the establishment of Iron and Steel Works and a factory for producing tyres and tubes. Work on both these projects was progressing satisfactorily. He added that the Government and the people of Ceylon were very grateful to the U. S. S. R.

Among the exhibits which drew much attention from the visitors were cars and television sets.

The exhibits featured utilisation of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, printing equipment; metal-cutting machine tools, radio and telephone; health and medical equipment; ready-made clothes, haberdashery and textiles; handicraft articles, china and glass ware; books and musical instruments; wines and tobacco and heavy machinery.

**Printed at the
Government Press, Ceylon**