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CEYLON

A Background Paper



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CEYLON

Ceylon's Importance

1. It has been a connecting link in East- West trade since ships have plied the Indian Ocean.
2. It is of great importance today in sea and air transportation.
3. It is the principal exporter of cinnamon, the world's second largest supplier of black tea, and a major exporter of rubber.
4. It is one of the most beautiful countries of the world.
5. It is historically one of the great centers of the Buddhist faith and civilization.
6. Its religious and racial tensions make it a laboratory in human relations.
7. Its political position as an independent country makes it an important factor in the "Cold War".

Its Location.

Ceylon is a pear-shaped island off the southeastern coast of
India.

It is situated between 5 55' and 9 50' N and 79 42' and 81 21'

It borders on India in the north
 The Indian Ocean on the south
 The Bay of Bengal on the East
 The Arabian Sea on the west

Its Size.

Total area - 25,332 square miles. About the size of The Netherlands and Belgium combined; a little larger than West Virginia; half the size of New York State.

North to South - 271 miles
East to West at the broadest point - 140 miles

Its Climate.

Sometimes called a tropical paradise. Located near the equator, it has no winter and no marked changes in seasons.

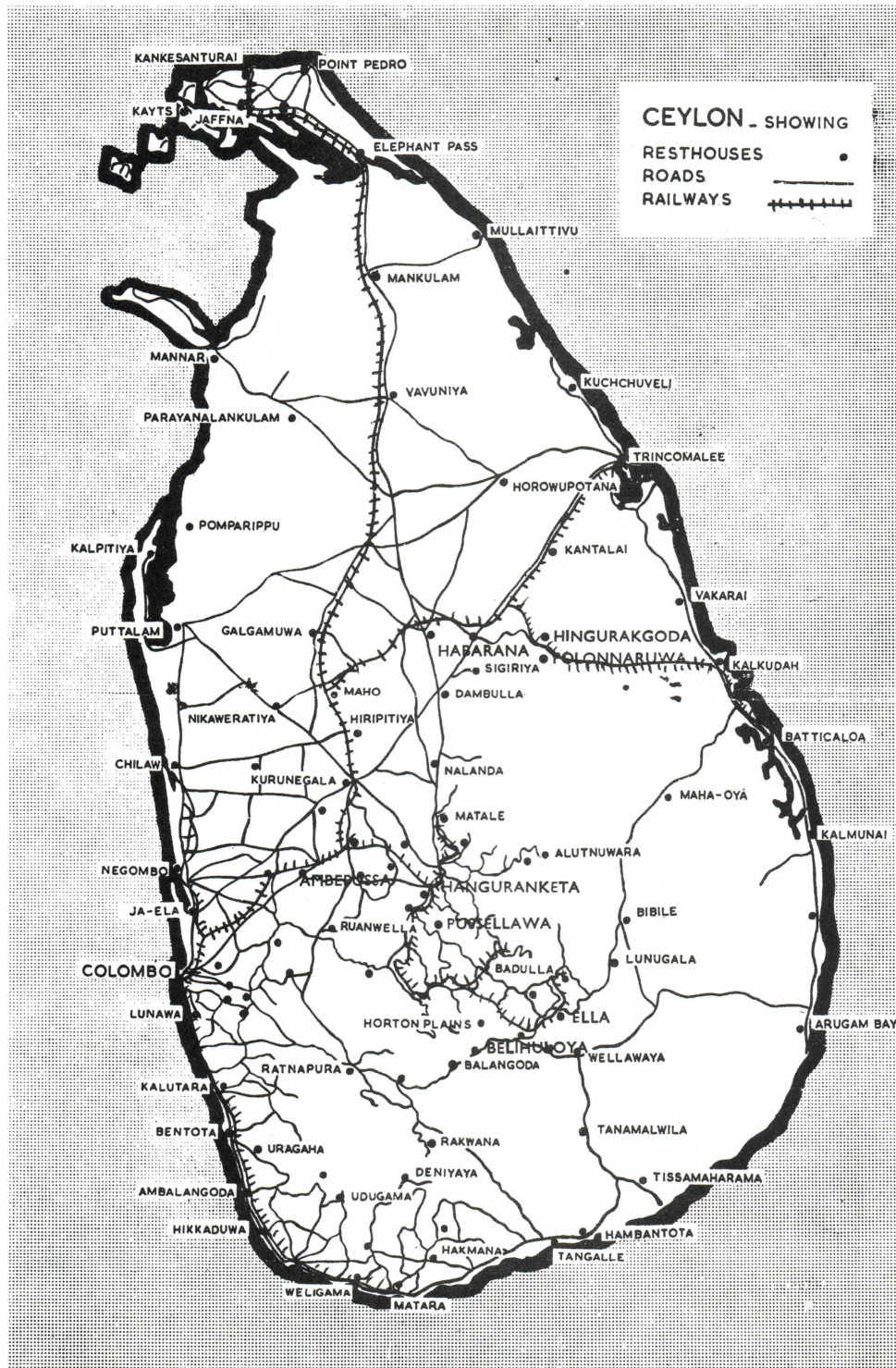
Rainfall varies from 75 to 200 inches per year. 25 to 75 inches in the north and east.

Warm in the coastal plains and lowlands and temperate in the hills and mountain regions.

Monsoons twice a year. May to September and December to February.

General Topography

Five-sixths of the land surface is below 1000 feet.
 South central part of the island is a plateau with a mountain range with many peaks of 7000 to 8000 feet and one peak of 8291 feet.
 A narrow coastal plain on east, south, and west and a wide coastal plain in the north.
 Several rivers of from 90 to 206 miles in length.



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The People

Total population in 1962 - around 10 million. Public health programs have reduced the death rate and the birth rate has continued about the same as before, making a population gain of 3% per year, among the highest in the world. Estimated population by 1980 - 18 million.

The population is divided roughly into the following groups:

Low country Sinhalese	43%
Up Country Sinhalese (Kandyan)	11
Indian Tamils	12
Ceylon Tamils	11
Ceylon Moors	5.5
Indian Moors	.6
Burghers and Eurasians	.6
Others	1.3

There are also between 4000 and 5000 Veddas, an aboriginal group.

The Veddas.

Descendants of the original tribes of Ceylon before the Indian invasions. Almost extinct, they live in primitive conditions in the forests of eastern Ceylon.

The Sinhalese.

Over two-thirds of the people of Ceylon are Sinhalese. Almost all of them are Buddhists, with a few Christians.

They speak Sinhalese, a language derived from Sanskrit.

They are divided into two groups (a) the low country Sinhalese and (b) the up country or Kandyan Sinhalese.

(a) The up country Sinhalese practice a loose kind of caste system, despite the fact that they are Buddhists. They have been more receptive to innovations, such as industrialization.

(b) The Kandyan Sinhalese were the people who resisted the Indian and European invaders and have retained their ancient customs almost intact. They might be considered the aristocrats.

The Tamils.

Two groups - Ceylon Tamils and Indian Tamils.

(a) The Ceylon Tamils have been in the country a long time.

(b) Indian Tamils are fairly recent arrivals from India or descendants of fairly recent arrivals.

Both groups speak a Dravidian language known as Tamil.

Most Tamils are Christians, although about 10% are Christians.

The Moslems.

There are several small groups of Moslems who live in their own communities and practice the Islamic faith and its customs.

The Ceylon Moors are descendants of the Arab merchants from about the 8th century. Many of them are small merchants and shopkeepers who have intermarried with the women of other groups.

The Indian Moslems are fairly recent immigrants from India, most of whom live in Colombo.

There are also some descendants of the Malay regiments employed by the Dutch. They are often in the police force and fire brigade. Fast disappearing as a distinct group.

A fourth group are the Moslems from Pakistan, often engaged as money-lenders.

The Gurchers.

These individuals are descendants of the Portuguese and Dutch traders and even though they have intermarried with other groups, many of them retain their European customs in dress and in speech. Under the British, they were a privileged class, holding many high posts in the government, but today they have lost their high position. Most of them are Protestants; a few of them Catholics.

Other Groups.

Among the very small communities in Ceylon are the following:

Europeans - largely British.

Parsees from Bombay, India (Members of the Zoroastrian faith).

Goans --from what was Portuguese Goa (now a part of India)

Chinese

Kaffirs

South Indian gypsies who speak Telegu, known as Kuravans.

There is intense rivalry among these various groups in Ceylon, focused especially on the problem of citizenship and the language problem.

Distribution of Population.

70 % of the population in southwestern part of Ceylon. Density 700 to the square mile.

15% city dwellers.

Life in the Villages and Towns

Village Life.

Most Ceylonese live in villages consisting of a cluster of homes. Homes are usually made of mud, with thatched roofs, often of coconut palm leaves.

Vary in size, but seldom over 9 by 12 feet.

One door, but no windows.

Sometimes sleep outside in hot weather.

Often a separate house for cooking, with "lipa" or fireplace.

Homes usually have a garden nearby for vegetables.

Sometimes fruit trees provide additional food.

Purchasing done at small stores in village or in weekly market, which is a social gathering place as well as a market place.

Buddhist or Hindu temple the center of village life.

Schools in most villages today.

Life on the Tea Plantations.

Some people live on tea plantations. Houses sometimes built by the owners of the plantation.

Life in the Towns.

Architecture and ways of living influenced by the various nations which have controlled Ceylon in the past, especially the British. Most houses one story, mud and plaster, with tiled roofs. Usually three or four rooms.

Cities are divided into two quarters:

1. European section. Homes western style. More affluence.
2. Ceylonese quarter.

Family Life.

The family is a much more important unit in Ceylon than in the Western World. Includes larger group of relatives. Bound together as a unit, with responsibilities to all members.

Marriages still arranged in most families, with members of the same caste or social class.

Food.

Rice is the major staple of Ceylon.

Served with curries or kind of gravy or sauce of vegetables, meat, or fish. Highly seasoned with chillies and spices.

An abundance of fruits - papayas, pineapples, limes, bananas, mangoes, jak or breadfruit.

Meat scarce and expensive, but fish is inexpensive.

Tea the favorite drink.

Little milk used except for coconut palm milk or juice.

Liquor made from the fermented juice of coconut palms -called "Arrack".

The Major Cities of Ceylon

Colombo.

By far the largest city of Ceylon.
Approximately half a million inhabitants.
Capital of the country.
Major seaport and air center.
Also center of trade and commerce.
Has a zoological Garden and famed Cinnamon Gardens.
A crowded city with buses and trolleys, and a few human rickshaws.

Galle.

Important harbor city.
Is "Tarshish" of the Bible, which King Solomon sent his ships
to for ivory, spices, and ebony.
Population of approximately 60,000.
Essentially a Dutch city
Very beautiful.

Jaffe.

Second largest city of Ceylon.
Population of approximately 80,000.
Has had much Dutch influence.
Site of Jaffna College, oldest Protestant Mission College in the
Far East.

Kandy.

Located 72 miles from Colombo.
Situated in a mountain valley, beside a lake. Has a beautiful
setting.
Former capital and last stronghold of the Sinhalese kings; steeped
in history.
Center of the Buddhist faith in Ceylon. Contains the Temple of the
Sacred Tooth.
Also has many Hindu temples.
Nearby is the famous Royal Botanical Garden and the University of
Ceylon at Peradeniya.
Famous for its cottage handicrafts such as work in lac, silver,
copper, brass, ivory, and ebony.

Moratuna.

Center of furniture industry and carpentry.
Population of approximately 60,000.

Mount Lina.

Third largest city of Ceylon. Population approximately 65,000.
A resort city, seven miles from Colombo, with beautiful beach.

Ancient Cities.

Anuradhapura, capital for 1400 years.
Polonnaruwa, the medieval capital, 134 miles from Colombo.

Transportation and Communication

Transportation.

Roads. A very good road system, with almost all towns and villages on some major highway. Roads narrow but usually hard-surfaced.

Buses. There are a large number of bus routes but not always good service. Very low fares for passengers.

Railways. State owned and operated. A good system meeting the commercial and agricultural requirements.

Harbors. The construction of a breakwater in the Colombo harbor has made it one of the best in the world. Handles over 90% of the trade of Ceylon. A government agency handles the cargo-handling enterprises.

Port at Trincomalee is a good natural harbor but off the main sea routes. It is used primarily for a naval base.

Galle another important harbor for trade.

Communication.

The national government owns and operates all the cable, telephone, telegraph and radio facilities except in a few rural villages.

Broadcasts are in Sinhalese, Tamil, and English.

Radio Telephone service with Pakistan inaugurated in 1959.

About half of the telephones are in Colombo.

Telegrams written in Sinhalese and in Tamil are accepted at certain offices and translated, if necessary, for forwarding, anywhere on the island.

Language Problems.

Under the British administration, English was the official language. In 1956 Sinhalese was substituted as the official language.

This brought about major conflicts, especially in the north, where the Tamil speaking people seriously objected to this as a discriminatory measure.

However, Sinhalese remains the official language of Ceylon today.

The Economy of Ceylon

The economy of Ceylon is basically agricultural, with about 80% of the people engaged as farmers. The standard of living is considerably higher than in most neighboring countries, with a per capita income of around \$100 per person per year (compared with \$50 in India, but \$2500 in the United States).

But the biggest problem is the growth of population, amounting to about 250,000 per year.

Major Products.

The four major products of the country are:

1. Tea, amounting to 65% of the exports.
2. Rubber, amounting to 19% of the exports.
3. Coconuts and coconut products, amounting to 13% of the exports.
4. Rice. Used inside the country.

Agriculture.

For an account of the raising of tea, the most important product, see page 9.

Rice. Ceylon's principal food crop. Grown all over the island, but half of the rice used has to be imported. In 1958 a Paddy Lands Act was passed to break up the large, feudal estates and give the people ownership of the land. Cultivated in wet places and in dry places, with irrigation. Men work in rice paddies in lines of six or eight persons, with their hoes. Water buffalo also used.

Rubber. Ceylon produces about 5% of the world's natural rubber. Produced chiefly in the southwestern part of Ceylon. Employed about 4500,000 persons directly or indirectly.

Coconuts. Has the largest acreage and number of workers of all the industries of the island. Has been largely owned by Ceylonese. Major by-product is copra, used for making oil and margarine, soaps, and cosmetics. Most cooking done with coconut oil. So important to the lives of people that some say it should be the national symbol instead of the lion.

Fisheries. It is estimated that 120,000 persons are engaged in the fishing industry. Used locally as a major part of the diet.

Forestry. Very good stands of timber. 17% of the land area of Ceylon consists of forests owned by the government. A tree planting program has been encouraged in recent years (a) to help prevent disastrous floods and (b) to build up timber stands.

The Cultivation of Tea

Importance of Tea in Ceylon.

Accounts for about 65% of the export trade of Ceylon.

Introduction into Ceylon

Tea was introduced into Ceylon in the late 19th century when the coffee plants became diseased. It had been grown in small quantities by the Curator of the Botanical Gardens near Kandy before that time.

James Taylor, an Englishman, is called The Father of the Tea Industry. Studied tea growing in northern India and developed it in Ceylon.

Conditions Under Which Tea Grows Best.

Tea grows best at fairly high altitudes, Soil should be rich and deep, for the long tap roots of the tea plants.

There must be a good deal of rainfall, but evenly distributed. The soil must also be well drained.

Three types of plantations in Ceylon:

1. Low-grown tea. On ground up to 2,000 feet.
2. Medium-grown tea. At heights between 2000 and 4000 feet.
3. High-grown tea. At heights of 4000 feet and more. This is the best tea.

Growing Tea.

Tea plants are grown in nurseries, usually near the water, to keep them watered in dry weather.

Grown in earth-filled baskets under the shade of trees.

Transplanted when about 12 inches high.

Planted between rows of trees to provide shade and leaves to enrich the soil.

About four years between the planting of the tiny plants to the time when they begin to bear.

Trimmed to height of three to four feet to make picking by hand easier.

Picking Tea.

Tea is picked by the women and children. They are almost always Indians--Tamils.

Men perform the heavier work on tea plantations.

Pick tiny new leaves and buds by hand. No machines invented to do this job.

Leaves tossed into wicker baskets on backs of pickers. Weighed and placed on trucks to take to tea factories.

Each section of plantation picked from 9 to 14 days.

Making Tea.

Tea leaves dried on trays, called "tats". Three-fourths of tea leaf is water when brought to the factory.

Placed on rollers and dried further. Allowed to ferment.

Heated and dried until it turns black.

Mining.

The chief mineral industry of Ceylon is the mining of graphite.

Largest production in the world. Used for lead pencils, crucibles, lubricants, and other purposes.

The mining of gems or precious stones is almost entirely done by the Ceylonese on a cooperative basis. The most important gems mined are rubies, sapphires, topazes, garnets and zircons.

Kaolin deposits have been located in several parts of Ceylon.

Iron ore has been found in fair-sized deposits but there has been no exploitation of it to date.

Industries.

Industrial production is confined largely to the processing of tea, rubber, cement and coconuts, in that order.

Private persons have been reluctant to invest their capital in new, "risk" enterprises and the government has stepped in, owning in whole or in part several new industries - among them cement plants, shoe factories, bicycle plants, cigarette establishments, sugar firms, and textile mills for making stockings.

Total number of persons employed in industry - around 60,000.

Handicrafts.

Handicraft industries include mat making, lacquer work, and the production of objects made of brass, copper, and silver. Often an entire village specializes in one product, such as the making of boxes, furniture, or toys, similar to the work of guilds in Europe in the Middle Ages.

Water and Water Power.

For centuries Ceylon has its tanks or reservoirs for conserving water and irrigating the land. Among the great engineering feats of early days. But they were destroyed or damaged in the invasions and eventually abandoned. A start has been made in the erection of new dams for (a) flood control, (b) irrigation, and (c) electricity. The largest of these is the dam at Gal Oya.

Elephants still used some for power. Between 3000 and 4000 of them.

The Colombo Plan.

In 1950 The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia initiated, named for city in Ceylon where conference took place forming this organization. Fourteen countries involved, plus Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Ceylon has received much help from this Plan.

Health

Health Problems.

Lack of doctors - only one doctor for every 5100 persons.
Gastro-intestinal diseases are very common, chief medical problem.
Typhoidm, dysentery and intestinal worm diseases high.
Poor health conditions increased by poor housing and crowded conditions as well as by overpopulation.
Lack of enough hospitals and hospital beds.
Great need for pure water supplies in many places.

Gains in Health.

Life expectancy has been nearly doubled in the last 35 years.
Now approximately 50 years - compared to 70 in U.S.A.
This is much higher than in most Asian countries, however.
Virtual elimination of cholera, the plague and smallpox recently.
Virtual elimination, also, of malaria.
Country-wide campaign with use of Jeep units and Walking Units.
Tuberculosis cut in half by the use of BCG vaccines, radiology units, and tb clinics.
Some help in health measures from the Colombo Plan, from the United States, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Administration of Health.

Local governments responsible for sanitation and water supplies.
National government responsible for free medical service, within the means available.

Housing

Proper housing acute in the rural areas.
Also acute in the cities with the increase of population and the movement to the cities.
Some building being done by the government.
Some building by private companies, by cooperative societies, and by individuals.
The government has a ten year plan for rural and urban housing.
Experiments with rammed earth houses in order to provide low-cost housing.

Education in Ceylon

Literacy. Third highest rate of literacy in Asia, after Japan and the Philippines. Due originally to the fact that Buddhist boys went to monasteries during a brief period of adolescence and became literate as well as to schools established by the British. About 65% literacy.

General Education.

Education is free from the kindergarten through the Universities.

It is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 14 except to those children who live at a distance from schools.

Language is generally that of the local community in primary grades. English has become the major "foreign" language since independence. Widely taught.

Education is controlled, as in most countries of the world, by the national government.

In recent years the government has taken over control of the schools formerly run by religious groups.

Boys and girls are usually separated in schools. Little coeducation

Classical education stressed until quite recently. More vocational training in recent years as well as more science, especially in secondary schools. U.S. government aiding in science educ. work.

University Education and Adult Education.

There are three universities in Ceylon:

1. University of Ceylon
2. Vidyalkankara University
3. Vidyodaya University

There is also a Ceylon Technical College and a Ceylon Law College.

The University of Ceylon is being aided by the Texas A and M. College in a special type of affiliation.

Adult education has been a concern of the federal government since 1939.

Some Educational Problems in Ceylon.

1. Language of instruction in schools
2. Type of education to be stressed in contemporary Ceylon.
3. High proportion of untrained teachers.
4. Staffing of technical schools.

Religions in Ceylon

There are adherents of four major faiths or religions in Ceylon --Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam. Their adherents generally depend upon the ethnic origin of the people. Thus most Sinhalese are Buddhists; most Tamils are Hindus; most Europeans and Eurasians Christians; and most Malays and Moors-Moslems.

There is considerable friction at the moment among these various groups, tied in with the question of minorities, languages, and schools, as noted in other sections of this Background Paper.

Buddhism. Approximately 64% of the population of Ceylon is Buddhist. It was brought to Ceylon from India and has grown here rather than being absorbed by Hinduism as in India. Has taken on some of the aspects of Hinduism. There are many shrines of Buddhism, especially Adam's Peak, believed to contain the footprint of Buddha at the top. Hindus believe it to be the footprint of Siva and Christians of Adam or St. Thomas. There has been a Buddhist renaissance in recent years.

Buddhists are divided into at least four major groups, the largest being adherents of the "Little Vehicle" group, which is uppermost in Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. The second largest group belong to the "Larger Vehicle" group which is predominant in China, Japan, Korea, Nepal, and Tibet.

Buddhist priests are seen everywhere in their yellow or saffron robes and parasols, especially early in the morning as they beg for their food with their rice bowls, going from door to door.

Christianity. About 9% of the people are Christians. Of these about four-fifths are Roman Catholics. Most of these persons are of Eurasian or European background.

Islam. Approximately 7% of the population of Ceylon are Moslems. This is the religion of 550,000 persons, most of them Moors.

Vestivals. Much of the social life of Ceylon revolves around the feast days or festivals of the various religions. Among these are:

1. Buddhist day: Wesak
2. Hindu days: Thai Pongal, Vel, Deepavali.
3. Christian days: Christmas and Easter.
4. Muslim Days: Hadji Festival, Mohammed's Birthday, and
the Ramayan

The Government of Ceylon

Ceylon is a democracy and a member of the (British) Commonwealth of Nations. Until recently ruled by Great Britain. Governor still appointed by the Queen although there has been much talk of Ceylon's becoming a republic.

Ceylon has had universal adult suffrage (including women) since 1931. This is the earliest date for voting by adults in any of the new nations formed since World War II.

Voting age of 18, since 1960.

National Government.

The chief of government, so far as the actual machinery goes, is the Prime Minister. The person in that post also holds the offices of Minister of Defense and of External Relations.

Parliament consists of a Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate consists of 30 members who serve six year terms, with one-third of them changing every two years as in U.S.A.

The House of Representatives consists of 157 members, 151 of them chosen by elections; the others selected to represent the minority groups which might not otherwise be represented.

The courts include a Supreme Court, Commissioners of Assize, a Criminal Court of Appeals, and various subordinate courts.

Regional and Local Government.

Ceylon is divided into nine provinces (like states in the U.S.A.):

1. Western
2. Central
3. Southern
4. Northern
5. Eastern
6. North Western
7. North Central
8. Uva
9. Sabaragamuwa

These are divided in turn into 20 administrative districts under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

These districts are divided into 107 divisions.

The smallest units of government are of four types:

- Village committees in rural areas.
- Town councils in rural areas.
- Town councils in rural towns.
- Urban councils in larger towns.

Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike -Prime Minister

First and only woman Prime Minister or President in the world today.

Came to Power in 1960.

Widow of the late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, who had been shot by a Buddhist priest in 1957.

Had abstained from politics prior to her election.

Elected by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

Two governments since her husband's death.

Family Background and Early Life.

Born in 1916.

Daughter of a wealthy, upper middle class landowner.

Educated in St. Bridget's Convent in Colombo, a Roman Catholic institution.

A Buddhist by religion, however.

Married in 1940 in an "arranged" marriage to a man 20 years older, whom she had never met. He was educated in Oxford University in England.

Her names means "The Fortunate One" and is shortened to Sirima.

Her last name means "Chief of the Village of Banda.

Has three children

Two daughters and a son.

Taller than the average Ceylonese woman, strong features, a little lighter in complexion than most of her countrywomen.

Wears saris and no make-up.

Active in social work as President of the Country Women's Association, prior to assuming post of Prime Minister.

Major Policies.

Ceylon as a neutral or independent nation in the Cold War.

Many of the industries must be nationalized, such as life insurance, banks, public utilities. Disagreement over nationalization of rubber plantations; no decision as this paper is being written.

Ceylon national government should run the schools of the country; including those formerly run by church groups.

Equal treatment to all Ceylonese, regardless of ethnic background
Ceylon eventually to be a Republic in the Commonwealth of Nations.

Retention of the post of Minister of Defense and of Foreign Affairs.

A Brief History of Ceylon

The history of Ceylon is often divided into two parts -- before 1505 and after that date, as follows:

Pre - 1505 History

- 543 B.C. Vijaya, first Sinhalese king of Ceylon
- 307 B.C. King Tissa the Pious ascends throne. Is converted to Buddhism.
- 833 A.D. A series of invasions from South India begins.
- 1017 A.D. Invasion of the Cholas from South India.
- 1153 - 1185 A.D. King Parakrama the Great who invaded India and Siam and did major building at Polonnaruwa.
- 1235 A.D. Magha of Kalinga established a Tamil Kingdom in Northern Ceylon.
- 1484 - 1509 A.D. Arrival of the Portuguese.

Post 1505 History

- 1505 Arrival of the Portuguese who ruled most of the island.
- 1658 Portuguese rule ended. Replaced by Dutch.
- 1796 English rule of Ceylon begins.
- 1818 Revolt against the British ends quickly.
- 1832 Colebrooke Commission recommends many administrative reforms.
- 1848 Last serious effort to end British rule.
- 1863 Building of the Colombo-Kandy railroad.
- 1873 New harbor constructed at Colombo to take care of growing sea traffic, partly as a result of the building of the Suez Canal.
- 1919 Ceylon National Congress formed, like Congress Party in India.
- 1927 Donoughmore Commission from England makes changes in Ceylon's Constitution, granting more local autonomy.
- 1939 Outbreak of war in Europe prevents discussion of self-rule in Ceylon.
- 1945 Soulbury Report advises changes to make Ceylon a Dominion.
- 1948 INDEPENDENCE on February 4, after 400 years of rule by European powers.

Beauty in Various Forms

The Landscape. Ceylon is considered one of the most beautiful spots in the world, with a comfortable climate and lovely landscape. It is called Lanka, which means the beautiful or wonderful one. There is much beautiful scenery in the mountains and along the coasts.

The Trees. Most common of the trees are the coconut palms, with their tall, bare trunks looking like cement posts on which feather dusters have been placed.

Other trees include the banyan (a species of fig with wide-spreading roots), the mango, the flamboyant, the rubber trees, the satin-woods, the ebony, and the jak fruit or bread fruit.

The Jewels. Jewels mined and polished in Ceylon, such as rubies, sapphires, amethysts, topazes, and moonstones.

The Ancient Architecture and Sculpture.

The dagobas, made of brick and faced with lime. The largest is bigger than all the pyramids of Egypt except one. Monuments. Temples and palaces, especially at Polonnaruwa with walls done in bas relief.

Bas relief sculpture with Buddhist influence. Especially Ceylonese are the moonstones, semi-circular stones at the foot of stairways, carved in bas relief with figures of animals, birds, and lotus flowers.

Huge Buddhas done in brick and plaster.

The Paintings. Famous fresco paintings (see reproductions in the Unesco publication listed in the Bibliography on Ceylon Paintings from Temple, Shrine and Rock.

The Music and Dances. The Tamils are especially fond of music, using the sitar, flutes, the vina, and the sarabgi, drums, cymbals, and gongs. Among the famous dances of Ceylon are those of the Kandyan people, usually done by men. They sing as they dance, telling the stories of the Sinhalese people.

Dancing with masks is popular, with caricatures of various types of people--money lenders, soldiers, butchers, etc.

The Dresses of the Women. The saris of the women are often very beautiful, usually in solid color, with borders or designs of another color. Soft pastel shades predominate.

The National Parks. There are three small but interesting parks, with elephants, bears, wild boars, deer, wild buffalo, leopards, and other animals, as well as natural scenery. These are:

1. Wilpattu in the northwest.
2. Ruhuna in the south.
3. Gal Oya Valley in the east.

Fun and Recreation

Some forms of fun are the same as in our country for children. Spinning topcs, marbles, races in schools, ball games of various kinds.

Dancing. Dancing is one of the favorite pastimes of the Ceylonese especially the Tamils. Some of the dances are connected with their Hindu faith, but not all of them.

Fishing. Fishing is a vocation for many people in Ceylon, but it is alsu a hobby for others. The location as an island makes this possible.

Swimming and boating. These are also favorite pastimes for many people. Boat racing on holidays is esepcially popular.

Soccer and Cricket. These two imported games are the most popular sports with boys. Cricket is a little like an old Ceylonese game called "ella" which is seldom played any more. Both of these sports are played between schools as in other parts of the world.

Rugby. Rugby was also brought to Ceylon by the British and has proved very popular, especially in schools.

Golf and tennis. These sports are played by Europeans and a few of the Ceylonese.

Festivals. There are many festivals during the year which are celebrated by the Hindus, Buddhists, Moslems, and Christians according to their faith. The New Year's celebration is celebrated by Buddhists and Hindus, as they share this common day.

For material on fun, see the booklet on
"Fun and Festival in India, Pakistan, and Ceylon"
listed in the bibliography.

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per day from the Secretary, Ceylon Embassy, 2148 Wyoming Ave.,
Washington, D.C. or Carlin Films, 450 West 56th St., N.Y.C. 19

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