

(a) Pakistan is the largest Muslim state in population (approximately 70,000,000) and enjoys a key position as a country with close connections in the Middle East as well as roots and influence in South East Asia.

(b) Western Pakistan would have great strategic importance in the event of a war with the Soviet Union. The air bases about Karachi and farther north might well be the most important point for attack on the Soviet Union. Conversely, the defence of Pakistan against Soviet pressure on her North West Frontier is of great value to the Western world.

(c) It is now evident that Pakistan is likely to survive as a separate state for many years. Like India it is now one of the few Asian countries with a strong stable government. Its outlook is both pro-Commonwealth and anti-Soviet.

(d) It would seem important to us to keep ourselves informed of political and other developments in Pakistan, and the aims and problems of her government. For example, on the Kashmir dispute it has been felt that we have been receiving, inevitably, somewhat one-sided reports from our mission in New Delhi.

(e) It may be regarded by Pakistan as a lack of courtesy and a bias in favour of India if we continue for some time without establishing a diplomatic mission in Karachi.

5. The United Kingdom and India have, for obvious reasons, had High Commissioners in Karachi since August 15, 1947. An Australian High Commissioner's Office was opened in Karachi in March 1948 under an Official Secretary, but the appointment of a High Commissioner has not yet been announced. Pakistan has taken no action to send a representative to Canberra.

Ceylon

6. Perhaps the most important reason for establishing representation in Ceylon is the very great strategic importance which Ceylon would have in the event of a general war. The naval and air facilities which Ceylon would provide would be of the greatest value.

7. The present government of Ceylon is clearly very favourable to the Commonwealth connection. It is under some pressure from the extreme Left and would, no doubt, be glad of any support shown by other Commonwealth countries, which would be evidenced by the sending of a High Commissioner. The refusal of the Soviet Union to agree to the admission of Ceylon to the United Nations has clearly caused great concern and some embarrassment to the government of Ceylon. It has perhaps given some comfort and even political support to the Left-wing elements.

8. The question of Canadian representation in Ceylon came up for consideration by the government early in 1948. When Mr. Kearney was in Colombo in February the question came up in a discussion with the Prime Minister of Ceylon as to whether Mr. Kearney might not be accredited to Ceylon as well as to India. Mr. Senanayake desired to have this arrangement made and proposed in turn to accredit the Ceylon High Commissioner in London to Canada. Mr. Kearney was in favour of the idea, particularly because in the event of the evacuation of Europeans from India to Ceylon it would be desirable to have some Canadian representation in