



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 28

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1957

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES THAT THE FIRST HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CEYLON IN CANADA, HIS EXCELLENCY RATNAKIRTI SENARAT SERASINGHE GUNewardENE TODAY CALLED ON THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND PRESENTED HIS LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER. MR. GUNewardENE ALSO CALLED ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR. Y. YUGOSUNDARAM WHO WILL ACT AS SECOND SECRETARY AND ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER IN OTTAWA, MR. GUNewardENE BEING CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR OF CEYLON IN WASHINGTON.

MR. GUNewardENE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF CEYLON FOR TWELVE YEARS AND WAS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND FIRST GOVERNMENT WHIP IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR SOME TIME. HE WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF CEYLON IN ITALY IN 1952 AND TWO YEARS LATER AMBASSADOR OF CEYLON IN WASHINGTON. IN JANUARY 1956, HE WAS APPOINTED CEYLON'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, IN ADDITION TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.