

mission earmarked for our future use, in the building projects now being planned, without as yet making any definite commitments. It is still uncertain what accommodation would be immediately available for a mission in the next few months.

### *Ceylon*

7. When we send a High Commissioner to Karachi, Ceylon will be the only member-nation of the Commonwealth in which Canada will not be represented. On May 6, 1948 Cabinet decided, for the time being, against having our High Commissioner in New Delhi jointly accredited to Colombo. Because of Ceylon's relatively minor importance in Commonwealth and world affairs, it is probably unnecessary for us to take any initiative now, and we can await a move from the Ceylonese authorities. Owing to their lack of personnel and limited resources, an approach from Ceylon seems unlikely for some time, though our action on Pakistan may perhaps prompt Ceylon to initiate an exchange of High Commissioners.

8.

DEA/9965-40

*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

[Ottawa], December 15, 1949

#### EXCHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES BETWEEN CANADA AND CEYLON

Even if you do not wish to open the question yourself, it is possible that during your visit to Colombo the Prime Minister of Ceylon will enquire concerning the possibility of exchanges of representatives between his country and Canada. I understand from Mr. Chipman that you had indicated to him that he might be accredited to Ceylon as well as to India. When I appeared before the Standing Committee on External Affairs on November 22, the matter of opening a Canadian mission in Colombo was discussed; I stated that I was not in a position to indicate what action the Government might take. Next year's estimates contain, under the item for new missions, provision for the cost of opening an office in Colombo in case the Government should decide to take this action.

2. Following the opening of our mission in Karachi, Ceylon will be the only member of the Commonwealth in which Canada maintains no representation. The Soviet veto of the proposal for Ceylon's membership in the United Nations undoubtedly gives Ceylon a feeling of isolation. It would be unfortunate to have this increased by any impression that Canada is not interested in maintaining normal Commonwealth contacts.

3. Ceylon's evolution to autonomy within the Commonwealth followed a less painful and indeed a much more happy course than was followed by India and Pakistan. As a consequence, there is considerably more pro-British feeling in Ceylon than in the other two Asian Commonwealth countries. This, added to the relative military weakness of Ceylon, is responsible for the arrangement under which