

## The Commonwealth in Asia

The last three weeks of my tour were spent in the three Asian members of the Commonwealth, Ceylon, India and Pakistan. I believe that it was helpful for me to be able to visit these countries at that time because of the strains that had been placed upon the Commonwealth association by the honest differences of opinion its various members expressed over the Suez crisis. In fact, everywhere I went I sought to indicate the value of the Commonwealth of Nations, and this in particular to its Asian members. I sought to impress on their government leaders and on the people too what role they could play in interpreting the attitudes of the members of the Commonwealth to other Asian nations. In India, particularly, I made a point of breaking away as much as possible from the official programmes which had been laid down for me, in order to gain an opportunity to understand the life of this great nation which has often been under-estimated and misunderstood in the West. I found the situation in my conversations with the Prime Ministers of these three countries, Mr. Bandaranaike in Ceylon, Mr. Nehru in India, and Mr. Suhrawardy in Pakistan, that there is on their part a true recognition of the value of the Commonwealth not only as a sensible grouping of nations in this interdependent world but also as an instrument which can and is being used



WITH CEYLON OFFICIALS

Mr. Martin is shown with the Hon. P. H. Wm. de Silva, Ceylonese Minister of Industries and Fisheries, right, and Mr. J. C. W. Nunasinha, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Industries and Fisheries. In the background is the fishing trawler "Canadian", built in Canada and supplied to the Ceylon Fisheries Project as Canadian Colombo Plan aid.