

should hope to acquire in greater measure—the serenity, judgment and wisdom which can only come from long centuries of civilized existence.

At the close of the Conference we were able to spend a week-end driving through the North Island. In the Rotorua area I visited a village of the original Maori people. There are about 150,000 Maori out of New Zealand's total population of two million and in most parts of the country they have become well integrated into the local population, although it is still possible to find individual Maori villages something like our Indian reserves. Rotorua itself is the centre of a great area of thermal activity. Steam rises everywhere from the bowels of the earth, forming hot pools, and some of the Maori houses have their own private thermal baths. The water in the pools and geysers is two degrees above boiling and the air is thick with steam and the smell of sulphur.

Singapore, Malaya and Burma

Our visits to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur were necessarily brief. The former is a tremendous city, crowded and teeming with people. I was very glad that I had the opportunity to see Singapore, because it is the transportation and commercial crossroads of the Far East. In addition, the projection there of the overseas Chinese problem, of which we saw something in all of the other countries in South-East Asia, gives Singapore an added interest to the Western visitor. I was able to have talks with the Minister of Education whom I had previously met in Wellington, as well as with the Acting Chief Minister, and the Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom in South-East Asia, Sir Robert Scott. Talking to these men gave me considerable insight into the internal security problem in Singapore, and its relation to the similar problem in the Malayan Federation to the North. Our stop in Kuala Lumpur was really too brief to give us any more than a fleeting glimpse of some of the Malay Federation which is so soon to become an independent member of the Commonwealth. Because of this prospective new status for Malaya, it was undoubtedly useful to have had even a brief opportunity of meeting the Ministers who will be helping to guide her future destiny. I was glad to see on the airfield at Kuala Lumpur a Canadian aircraft which is making an aerial survey of Malaya as part of our Colombo Plan programme there.

From Malaya we flew on to Rangoon, the capital of Burma. Here I was able to have useful talks with the Prime Minister, Ba Swe, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Foreign Minister. One has really to be right on the spot to realize the great force and the tremendous pressures that must face a nation that could be considered a kind of half-way house between India and China. A country of 18 million people dedicated to the principles of Buddhism, Burma serves as a symbol of the kind of forces that are at play all through Asia. Rangoon is an unusual city, much closer than anything we had previously seen to my preconceived notions of what I would find in Asia. Although it was considered to be one of the jewels of the Orient before the Second World War, it took tremendous poundings during this conflict and the marks of destruction are still evident throughout its streets. On the other hand, there are many modern functional buildings reminiscent of the United Nations headquarters in New York. These stand out in sharp contrast to the great Shwedagon Pagoda, whose glistening gold-leaf covered shape looms up like a polished brass school bell in the centre of Rangoon.