

I have come by way of Europe and India and Pakistan. When I leave you I shall go on to Indonesia, to the Philippines and from there to Korea and Japan. At this mid-way point of my tour in Asia I want to tell you that I am thankful I decided to make this trip. I came to see for myself something of the countries of Asia, to meet and talk with members of some Asian governments and with other people in Asian countries. I wanted to show you that we wish to continue to be your friends and to learn more about you who are our friends. We know that friendship can be of great value to us, in the West, and we hope it will be of value to you also.

I regret that there are many important countries in Southeast Asia which time will not allow me to visit, but the welcome I have received in Ceylon and in the other countries I have so far visited has strengthened my conviction that there is a very real and abiding basis for mutual help and co-operation between Asian and Western peoples. I have naturally been struck by the many differences between your part of the world and mine, differences in the climate and natural surroundings and in the temperament and ways of life of the people, and in the great undertakings of the past and those of our own times. But what has impressed me far more deeply and forcefully is that the fundamental needs and aspirations of Asian peoples are the same as those of our own people, and that our common humanity has, in the past and does still transcend all those differences. Man's artistic and technical processes have varied throughout the ages and in the various lands where he has lived but they have always reflected the duality of his nature and his desire to satisfy both his physical needs and higher aspirations of his immaterial spirit.

I am very happy to have been able to spend these few short days in your country and, in departing, I pray that fortune may continue to smile upon you and upon Ceylon!
Sri Lanka!

