

should be broken. I never thought so, in spite of the grave differences of opinion. Certainly some people in India, some important people, even suggested that the Commonwealth association was doing no good, but we are firmly of the opinion—and we discussed this in our parliament some days ago—and declared quite clearly that we wished the Commonwealth association to continue because we thought that in spite of differences it was an association helping mutual understanding, a measure of co-operation and the larger causes of peace in the world; also there are so many what may be called disruptive tendencies in the world that I, for my part, am not prepared to break up any kind of an association or bridge that there is. . . . The Commonwealth somewhat changed its character eight or nine years ago, more so seven years ago when India became a republic and yet continued in the Commonwealth. That itself was a novel feature, a republic being in the Commonwealth. Now, of course, Pakistan is also a republic and is in the Commonwealth. That showed a certain adaptability, flexibility of the Commonwealth, which I think is a great virtue; in these times of transition it can adapt itself to changing conditions. If you think in terms of all the countries of the Commonwealth having more or less similar policies in regard to most things, then, I would say that is not so because they do pursue different policies, as also common policies, both. But I think the major virtue of the Commonwealth has been that while following different policies sometimes, they keep in touch with each other; consult each other, and therefore try to adapt themselves to each other's policies as far as possible. I think that friendly bridge and an attempt to co-operate, even though they may not have the same policies, in the end is more important than a rather artificial unity policy. . . . the Commonwealth way of dealing with each other, that is, a friendly approach, and trying to understand each other and try to co-ordinate as far as possible their policies and yet have complete freedom to adopt any line of action a country thinks fit and proper, is the kind of way which can really be expanded to cover any country in the world, or all the countries. It is peaceful and co-operative co-existence in spite of difference.



#### EXCHANGE OF NOTES

Seen from left to right above during the Exchange of Notes at Colombo in connection with Canada's gift of \$2,000,000 to Ceylon under the Colombo Plan are Mr. J. J. Hurley, Canadian High Commissioner to Ceylon, Mr. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, and the Hon. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon.