



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1954.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that at the invitation of the Government of Canada the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, K.B.E., Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence of Ceylon will pay an official visit to Canada for four days from Thursday, December 2 to Monday, December 6 during the course of a tour which will take him around the world.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Mr. Gunasena de Soyza, C.M.G., O.B.E., Permanent Secretary (Deputy Minister) of the Ministry of External Affairs and Defence; Mr. P. Nadesan, Secretary to the Prime Minister and Information Officer; and M. Jayasekera, the Prime Minister's personal aide. The party will be accompanied by three Canadian officials designated by External Affairs, National Defence and R.C.M.P.

The program arranged for the Prime Minister's visit to Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls and Montreal is as follows:

## Thursday, December 2

8:30 a.m. Leave LaGuardia airfield, New York, by Department of Transport aircraft.

## Ottawa

11:30 a.m. Arrive Uplands Airport (R.C.A.F.). Met by the Prime Minister, the representative of the Governor-General, members of the Cabinet, members of the diplomatic corps and other dignitaries. Review guard of honour. Make a short statement to the press.

11:45 a.m. Proceed to Government House where Sir John Kotelawala will stay as guest of the Governor-General.

3:30 p.m. Call on the Prime Minister in the East Block.

4:30 p.m. Press conference in main conference room, East Block.

8:00 p.m. Dinner at Government House

## Friday, December 3

9:30 a.m. Leave Government House for National Research Council, Montreal Road

- 12:45 p.m. Lunch at Prime Minister's residence  
3:00 p.m. Board Department of Transport aircraft  
at Rockcliffe Airport for Toronto.

Toronto

- 4:45 p.m. Arrive at Island Airport. Met by representatives of the Lieutenant-Governor and Premier of Ontario.  
5:15 p.m. Arrive at the Parliament Buildings for conversation with Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and the Acting Premier.  
7:45 p.m. Dinner at Royal York Hotel given by the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario.

Saturday, December 4

- 8:30 a.m. Leave Royal York Hotel by automobile for Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls

- 10:30 a.m. Arrive at General Brock Hotel. Met by Chairman of the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario and officials.  
1:00 p.m. Canadian Club lunch at General Brock Hotel  
3:15 p.m. Leave by automobile for St. Catharines  
3:45 p.m. Board Department of Transport aircraft at St. Catharines for Montreal.

Montreal

- 6:15 p.m. Arrive at Dorval Airport, Trans-Atlantic Terminal  
6:30 p.m. Leave Dorval Airport for Windsor Hotel  
8:00 p.m. Dinner by Minister of Transport on behalf of Canadian Government at Montreal Club.

Sunday, December 5

- Morning Sightseeing tour of Montreal  
Afternoon Visit to city Hall  
4:00 p.m. Visit Radio Canada Building

Monday, December 6

- 7:00 a.m. Leave Dorval Airport, Trans-Atlantic Terminal by Department of Transport plane for Washington.

The Right Honourable Sir John Kotelawala, K.B.E.  
Prime Minister of Ceylon

Sir John Kotelawala was born in 1897, was educated at Royal College, Colombo, and at Christ's College, Cambridge. He is a former Commander of the Ceylon Light Infantry. A man of independent means, he was elected to the State Council under the Donoughmore Constitution in 1931 and became Minister for Communications and Works in 1935.

Sir John was one of the founding members of the United National Party from which his government is formed, and together with the first Prime Minister, the Right Honourable D. S. Senanayake, and the present Governor General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, was an influential leader during the war. He played a prominent part at the time independence was achieved in 1948. Appointed Minister of Transport and Works in 1947 on election to the House of Representatives, Sir John was largely responsible for the commencement of the hydro-electric scheme, the introduction and development of civil aviation in Ceylon, and the port development scheme in Colombo Harbour.

Sir John was knighted in 1948, became leader of the House of Representatives in 1950 and Prime Minister of Ceylon in October 1953, on the resignation of Mr. Dudley Senanayake. He holds also the portfolios of Minister of External Affairs and of Defence.

Sir John is a good cricketer, polo player and boxer.

Ottawa, November 26, 1954.