

# CEYLON APPOINTS ANTI-RED PREMIER

Education Chief Succeeds  
Bandaranaike—Nation Is  
Calm After Murder

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COLOMBO, Ceylon, Sept. 26

A staunch anti-Communist was sworn in today as Prime Minister of Ceylon to succeed S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, who died of wounds inflicted by an assassin yesterday.

The new Prime Minister is Wijayananda Dahanayake, formerly Education Minister in Mr. Bandaranaike's Cabinet.

The Governor General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, administered the oath of office shortly before noon at Queen's House, his official residence. Meanwhile, Colombo calmly mourned the death five hours earlier of Mr. Bandaranaike, who was shot four times yesterday morning by a yellow-robed Buddhist monk.

Mr. Dahanayake declared in an interview tonight that "nothing has taken place to make us think of any alteration of the policy that was pursued by Mr. Bandaranaike."

"We should set our minds and hearts to work, more work and

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better work, while maintaining the policy—foreign and domestic—of the late Mr. Bandaranaike," he said.

Mr. Dahanayake, a square-jawed, stocky man with thinning gray hair, was wearing a homespun white cotton shirt, the traditional white Ceylonese sarong and brown saddle shoes as he received three foreign newsmen in the spacious second-floor drawing room of Templetrees, the Prime Minister's official residence.

The new Prime Minister, who is from Galle, about seventy-five miles south of here, said he had been able to move right in because Mr. Bandaranaike, whose family home was in Colombo, had not lived in Templetrees.

## Leader Gets Party Backing

Forty-five members of Parliament from Ceylon's ruling Sri Lanka (Freedom) party voiced confidence in Mr. Dahanayake tonight. After meeting nearly all day, they issued a statement expressing "complete faith in the ability of their new leader to steer the country through its crisis."

Ceylon, an island nation just south of the Indian subcontinent, was calm under a state of emergency that Sir Oliver had declared shortly after the shooting of the Prime Minister. In downtown Colombo only a few offices and stores opened for the usual half day of Saturday business. Traffic was light and most of the automobiles, trucks, taxis and even bicycles on the streets flew white pennants, a traditional Buddhist sign of mourning.

Mr. Dahanayake said in the interview tonight that the state of emergency had been called "only as a precautionary measure" and was based on the principle that "prevention is better than a cure."

He emphasized that only those emergency regulations banning processions and public meetings were being enforced. He said the armed forces were in readiness but had not been called out.

To prevent any repetition of the bloody Hindu-Buddhist riots of several years ago, the Government emphasized to newspapers and radio stations that Mr. Bandaranaike, who turned from Christianity to Buddhism many years ago, had been slain by a monk of his own faith.

The monk, Talduwe Somarama Theer, was remanded in police custody until Oct. 6 by the chief magistrate of Colombo. No formal charge was made because the monk, who was shot in the knee by a police sentry after his attack on the Prime Minister, is in a hospital and must appear in court before such action can be taken.

While the police began an intensive investigation into the slaying, informed observers

generally discounted any political motive. The most popular theory was that the monk had borne a personal grudge against Mr. Bandaranaike because of a policy dispute at a hospital with which they were both connected.

The late Prime Minister was shot at his home here within minutes after he had finished talking there with Bernard Gufler, the United States Ambassador. Mr. Gufler said he had paid a courtesy call of about fifteen minutes because Mr. Bandaranaike had expected to leave Monday for Britain and the United States, where he was to have addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

This afternoon Mr. Bandaranaike's body was taken to his home from a hospital where he had undergone more than four hours of surgery after the shooting. The body will be taken Monday to the House of Representatives, where it will lie in state until the funeral Thursday.

Wednesday and Thursday have been declared days of official mourning.

Mr. Bandaranaike, a fragile-looking Oxford graduate who

was 60 years old, became Prime Minister in April, 1956, after campaigning strongly against British bases in Ceylon and against free enterprise.

His toughness in quelling a Colombo port strike this summer was generally lauded by all the Ceylonese except extreme Leftists. He also was credited with easing differences with India.

Although Mr. Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka (Freedom) party maintained a very slim hold on the 101-seat House of Representatives, some observers expected his new popularity to help him remain in office until the general elections scheduled for early 1961.

Only by coincidence did Mr. Dahanayake, 57 years old and a one-time Marxist, succeed Mr. Bandaranaike. The man in line for the post was Deputy Prime Minister Charles Percival de Silva, but he is ill in London and unable to take charge.

Mr. Dahanayake has decided to continue for the present with the same Cabinet and will keep the duties of Education Minister in addition to those of Defense and Foreign Affairs, which have customarily been in the charge of the Prime Minister.