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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON SIR CLAUDE COREA (CEYLON),
CHAIRMAN OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

Sir Claude Corea, K.B.E., who today was elected Chairman of the General Assembly's Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee, has served as Ceylon's Permanent Representative to the United Nations since May 1958.

Sir Claude was born in Chilaw, Ceylon, on 5 September 1894. He was educated at Wesley College, Colombo, and at Ceylon's Law College.

From 1916 through 1936 he practiced law in Ceylon. However, during part of this period, he was active in the political field and served three times as President of the "Ceylon National Congress," the pioneer political body of Ceylon in the pre-independence period.

In 1931, he was elected a member of the State Council, Ceylon's first legislative body, and acted as Minister of Home Affairs. He was re-elected to the State Council in 1936. From 1936 to 1946 he also served as Minister of Labor, Industry and Commerce. And, in 1939, he was appointed a member of the War Council of Ceylon, a post he held through 1945.

In 1946, Sir Claude entered the diplomatic service of his country and was appointed Ceylon's Government Representative in London. In 1948, he was named Ambassador of Ceylon to the United States, a post he held until 1953. Then he was appointed Ceylon's High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, where he served until his appointment as Permanent Representative of Ceylon to the United Nations.

Sir Claude has represented Ceylon at several international conferences, including meetings of the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In 1955, he was appointed Chairman of the Interim Coordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements by the Secretary-General on recommendation of GATT. In 1956, he served as Chairman of GATT. He was Chairman of Ceylon's delegation to the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea held earlier this year in Geneva.

Sir Claude is the current Chairman of the Asian-African Group in the United Nations.

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