

UNITED NATIONS
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GENERAL

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THE PROBLEM OF STATELESSNESS

Information transmitted by States in pursuance of Economic
and Social Council resolution 352 (XII) relating to
the problem of statelessness

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate the following communication dated 3 July 1951, which he has received from the Minister of External Affairs of Ceylon:

"The Minister of External Affairs presents his compliments to the Secretary-General United Nations and with reference to his note SCA 325/04 of 5 April 1951 seeking information concerning the problem of Statelessness has the honour to forward herewith a Memorandum embodying the observations of the Ceylon Government."

MEMORANDUM

"The question of Naturalization of Stateless Persons has so far not arisen in Ceylon. Consequently no legislation has been framed to deal with the question specifically.

An analysis of the existing Citizenship laws of Ceylon shows that citizenship falls under two heads.

- (a) By Descent
- (b) By Registration

In the latter class persons of the following categories are eligible to be granted Citizenship.

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/(1) Persons
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- (i) Persons over 21 years of age who are married to Citizens of Ceylon.
- (ii) Persons over 21 years of age who can establish that their mothers are citizens of Ceylon by descent.
- (iii) Persons ordinarily resident in Ceylon and who have rendered distinguished service to the country.
- (iv) Persons ordinarily resident in Ceylon and naturalized in Ceylon under the provisions of the British Nationality Act.
- (v) Persons of Indian and Pakistani origin who have been long resident in Ceylon.

NOTE: Registration of this last class of people is governed by special legislation which was passed to deal with the peculiar problems which arose as a result of large scale migration of Indian labour to Ceylon before Ceylon became independent. This special legislation will however be in operation only for a specific period of time.

A feature of the Ceylon Citizenship laws is that provision exists against possession of dual nationality. A citizen of any other country is requested to renounce such nationality within a prescribed period of time after the grant to him of Ceylon Citizenship. In effect therefore it is easier for a stateless person to secure Ceylon citizenship than for a person already possessing another nationality."
