

Mr. Barclay flew to Noumea in July to represent the New Zealand Government at the handing over to the Anzac Agency by the Imperial War Graves Commission of the New Zealand War Cemetery at Bourail. In February, 1948, the High Commissioner, as representative of the New Zealand Government, accompanied by Mr. R. H. Wade, attended the Ceylon Independence celebrations which marked the attainment by Ceylon of full self-government within the British Commonwealth.

5. NEW ZEALAND LEGATION, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The Legation has continued its close observation of all aspects of Soviet life and affairs and has furnished numerous reports on widely varying subjects, which, in view of developments in the international situation during the year under review, have been particularly useful. In addition, the Legation carried out a considerable amount of liaison work between Soviet and New Zealand scientific and academic bodies as a result of which there have been regular exchanges of publications and information of a scientific, cultural, and general nature. The Soviet Society for Cultural Relations have expressed their desire to receive some music by New Zealand composers, and it is hoped that it will be possible to arrange this. Orchestral scores and other music have already been received from the society.

Translations made by the Joint Press Reading Service of articles appearing in the Russian press on such subjects as social insurance, transport, agriculture, economics, &c., have been received regularly and have been passed on to the Government Departments concerned.

General information about New Zealand has been frequently sought, and some publicity has been given to New Zealand affairs. The Russian language newspaper *British Ally*, published by the British Embassy, has carried articles on New Zealand economy, Maori life and affairs, sport in New Zealand, &c.

At the end of April, 1947, the Council of Foreign Ministers, which had been meeting in Moscow, disbanded. During the period of the Conference the New Zealand Minister was constantly in consultation with other members of the Commonwealth on matters of common concern which came under discussion.

On 31 December, 1947, the Legation deposited with the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs the New Zealand Instruments of Ratification of the peace treaties with Roumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Finland.

On 25 September the New Zealand Minister and Mrs. Boswell left Moscow for New Zealand on holiday, and during the absence of the Minister Mr. D. P. Costello, First Secretary, has acted as *Chargé d'Affaires*.