Mahmoud Muntasser, the delegation leader from Libya, was born in the Ajcilat, Tripoli, in 1930. Having completed his primary and higher education at Tripoli, he went to Italy, where he attended the Royal Military School. For further studies he went to the University of Rome's Faculty of Commerce and Economics.

During the British Military Administration of Tripolitania Muntasser was elected Vice-Chairman of the National Administrative Council. In 1950 he was a member in the Constitution Party and subsequently took over the premiership of the Transitional Government of Libya.

At the time of the proclamation of Libya’s independence on December 24, 1951, Mahmoud Muntasser resigned, but was asked by King Idris I to form a new cabinet. This he did, and he held the premiership till his resignation on February 15, 1954. On June 30, 1954 he was appointed Ambassador to the Court of St. James, London.
Carlos P. Romulo, Philippines

Versatile Chief Delegate from the Philippines, General Romulo, born in Manila 1911, has been his country's Ambassador to the United States since January 1952. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Journalism in 1942, and author of many best-sellers, General Romulo has been in the service of the Philippines for many years.

His work in the United Nations is particularly well-known. From 1945 to 1953 he was head of the Philippines mission to the U.N. and in 1949-50 he held the General Assembly presidency. He has participated in many international conferences, including the U.N. Conference on Freedom of Information in Geneva in 1948, and the New Delhi Asian Relations Conference of 1949. From 1950 to the time of his appointment to his present post he was Secretary of Foreign Affairs in the cabinet of President Quirino.

Ambassador Romulo obtained his A.B. degree from the University of the Philippines, and his M.A. from Columbia University, New York. Since then he has received numerous honorary degrees from various Universities, has been decorated by a number of different governments, including those of Cuba, Mexico, Spain, the United States and the Philippines, and has won many awards.

He is married and has four children.

General Romulo, facing camera on right. On his right is Lt. Col. Nasser of Egypt and a fellow-member of the Egyptian delegation. The Pakistani Prime Minister and Mme. Mohammed Ali are standing with their backs to the camera.

Two days ago, on 20th April at 8 a.m., about 50,000 Bandung school children dressed in white sang Indonesian songs in the Tegalega Square to honour the delegates to the Asian-African Conference.

The aubade was preceded by the singing of the national anthem and followed by a speech of Prime Minister Ali Sastroamidjojo, who thanked the singers on behalf of the delegates to the Conference.
The American Press

On the eve of the Conference, various leading American papers speculated that both Nehru and Chou En-lai might use the Conference as a sounding-board as regards Matsu, Quemoy and Taiwan. With variations here and there the editorials presented almost similar views that the United States' Far Eastern policy might be viewed with criticism by the Conference.

The Sunday edition of the "Washington Post" stated in its editorial that passionate eloquence against specific evils would undoubtedly be produced. Dr. Ali Sastroamidjojo, the paper said, could not pass up the opportunity to get a few anti-Dutch sentiments off his chest. He was after all the father of the Bandung Conference and hoped to earn considerable domestic kudos out of the proceedings. So, the paper continued, the claims to Irian were due to be pushed into the international limelight again. It would not be surprising if America were included amongst the imperialists and found herself branded as a residuary of imperialism.

On the other hand columnist Chalmers Roberts advocated seriously U.S. understanding of what is happening at Bandung. The Conference would certainly, in Roberts' opinion, result in more pressure from the have-nots of the world for a better share of the world's goods. Hence the long-term effect of Bandung would not be able to be measured as much by what was said or done or thought this week, as by the way in which the Western "have" nations responded, and above all by the way in which the U.S. responded. If the U.S. let itself be irritated by what it heard this week from Bandung, and there would be plenty of irritants, Americans would probably be losers in the end. But, the Washington Post columnist continued, if the challenges which Bandung offered to the West were backed up, and efforts were made to meet them, then the Asian-African Conference could turn out to have been a useful affair from the U.S. viewpoint.

The Bandung Conference was an historical landmark for that half of the world which has been asleep for 500 years or more. The Asian nations were on their feet at long last.

Roberts was certain that it was not entirely these peoples' own conduct or will which would shape their future. The Soviet Union was watching to lend a hand, and Red China, barely awake itself, was promising aid. Somebody's proffer of a hand was going to be accepted, the columnist concluded.

Peggy Durdin, writing for the Sunday magazine of the "New York Times" from Singapore called for better U.S. understanding of Asia. She pointed out that viewing Communist emergence in Asia, the U.S. could not, by bombs and military pacts, save Asia from Communism, which was expanding most effectively not through military invasion but through indigenous upheavals and revolution. Not even American economic and technical assistance could do it. No one knew better than the Chinese Communists that man does not live by bread alone. If all or part of Asia was to be saved, Asians themselves would do it. In many Asians' view the function of the West — of the U.S.A. — was important but secondary. It was to be a good friend and neighbour in every sense of the word.

The "New York Herald Tribune" pointed out that resentment of the past might be the common factor for many of these 29 diverse nations that have been subjected to control by Europe or U.S.A. Because of the strong diversity amongst participating nations, the Herald Tribune suggested that the need at Bandung was to realize that the greatest peril to growing freedom of Asia and Africa was not to be found in nations excluded from the Conference because of race or geography, but in the Conference's own ranks — in Red China and its apologists, in those who would use old hatreds to build new slavery, who were so blinded by the past that they couldn't see the threat of the future.

The "New York Daily Worker" pointed out that the Asian-African Conference constituted a declaration of independence from Western imperialism but offered a friendly hand to the American people and mutually beneficial relations, including peaceful co-existence and the recognition of sovereignty and equality of all peoples.

In an article entitled "Asian-African Nations enter upon a New Road", the New York Times Far Eastern correspondent Tillman Durkin wrote on the eve of the Conference that this gathering was regarded by its participants as representing an emphatic assertion of their right of existence and independence, and a gesture to underline these factors to the West. Many delegates were viewing this feeling as the most important aspect of the Conference. It might be possible, they were inclined to believe, to arrive at agreement on certain broad propositions, but disagreement was inevitable on many specific issues. It was recognized here, in Durkin's view, that there was
more diversity than uniformity of interest and viewpoint at Bandung, despite the fact that the participants had certain characteristics in common.

The anti-Communist powers such as Turkey, Thailand, Iraq, South Vietnam and the Philippines, were not likely to agree with Communist China and North Vietnam on many issues, Mr. Durdin continued. The five principles of co-existence would certainly be supported by both India and Communist China. But, because these have been made the theme of Communist propaganda, the anti-Communist powers would certainly find these principles difficult to accept. It was generally considered that Chou En-lai would be attempting to be as moderate as possible in an effort to get resolutions of a general nature adopted by the Conference. It was believed that Chou had striven to avoid public evidence of differences with Nehru, and by this tactic was trying to swing a maximum amount of Asian-African opinion into association with Peking

Bandung last weekend promised very little achievement, the New York Times correspondent concluded. The long-term effect of what the Conference did might depend more on propaganda use made of the Bandung decisions, and on informal contacts made, than upon any agreements or disagreements produced.

A Teaparty for Women Guests

On Tuesday 20th April, the West Java Governor’s wife gave a teaparty at the Governor’s Residence for the women guests to the Conference. Among the many guests were Madame Ali Sastroamidjojo and Mrs. Shrimati Indira Gandhi, daughter of Premier Nehru.

After tea the guests were taken to the Erlangga building for a programme of entertainment organised by the women’s section of the People’s Committee of West Java. The programme included Javanese dances by children and an Indian and a Chinese dance.

A group of ladies at the reception given by President and Madame Sukarno and Vice-President and Madame Hatta on 18th April.