

# obituaries



Dr. Ralph J. Bunche



Dr. Vikram A. Sarabhai

## RALPH J. BUNCHE

Ralph J. Bunche, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, died in December 1971 after a long series of illnesses.

Born in 1904 in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Bunche attended the University of California, Los Angeles, and Harvard University. He did later postgraduate work at Northwestern University, the London School of Economics and the University of Cape Town. While on the faculty of Howard University, in Washington, he joined the United States State Department in 1944 and, as a member of the US delegation, attended the first UN conference in San Francisco in 1945. In 1946 he joined the staff of the UN as Director of the Division of Trusteeship; from 1947 to 1954 Dr. Bunche served as Principal Director of the Department of Trusteeship and Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories. He was Acting Mediator in Palestine from September 1948 to August 1949, and directed the negotiations which resulted in the Armistice Agreement between Israel and the Arab States.

Dr. Bunche became a UN Under-Secretary in 1955, and held the title of Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs from 1957 until a reorganization when he assumed the title Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs. In his work with the UN before his retirement for medical reasons in 1971 he was also concerned with the UN programme on

the peaceful uses of atomic energy. He represented the Secretary-General in 1957 at the first General Conference of the IAEA and again visited the Agency in 1962 and on the occasion of its Tenth Anniversary. Dr. Bunche took a close interest in the Agency's work throughout. His advice, founded on a solid acquaintance with the Agency, was highly appreciated.

As a man of peace, Dr. Bunche was the recipient of many honorary degrees and awards, among them the Nobel Peace Prize, which he was given in 1950 in recognition of his work in the negotiation of the 1949 Armistice Agreement.

#### VIKRAM A. SARABHAI

Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai, Chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy, died in December last year.

Dr. Sarabhai was born in 1919 and was educated at Bombay and Cambridge Universities. From 1947 to 1965 he was Professor of Cosmic Ray Physics and from 1965 Director of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, India; in 1962 he assumed responsibility for organization of space research in India and became first Chairman of the Indian National Committee for Space Research set up by the Department of Atomic Energy. He became Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India in 1966. At one time or another he served also as a member of several advisory or planning boards.

He was head of the Indian delegation to the Agency's General Conference from the year 1966 onwards, and was elected President of the General Conference for the year 1970. He represented his Government at the 1968 Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States in Geneva, and led the Indian delegation at the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. In addition, he was a member of the Secretary-General's consultative group on "effects of the possible use of nuclear weapons and the security and economic implications for States of the acquisition and further development of these weapons" (1967). At the time of his death Dr. Sarabhai was a member of the UN Scientific Advisory Committee.

Throughout his career, Dr. Sarabhai devoted much of his time and energy to fostering international co-operation in nuclear energy and in the Agency his broadminded outlook and his support of the Agency's activities were highly esteemed.

Dr. Sarabhai's nuclear interests lay especially in the field of cosmic ray intensity variations; in addition to leading an active group at Ahmedabad, Dr. Sarabhai had research projects outside India.