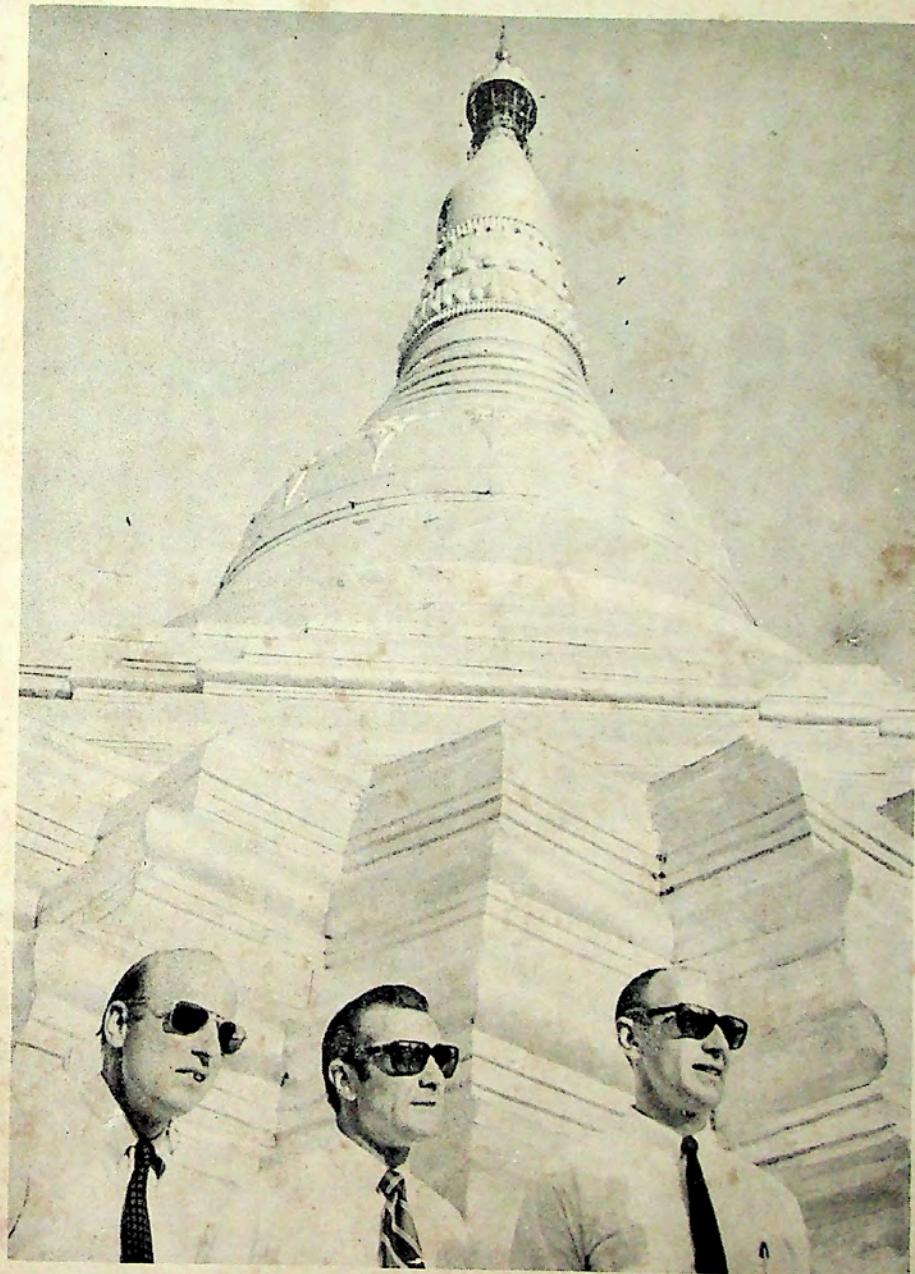


APOLLO-12 ASTRONAUTS VISIT BURMA



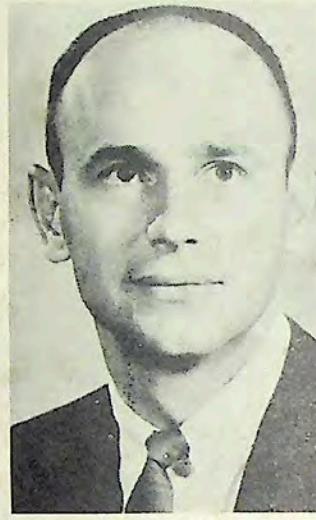
**A PHOTO ALBUM OF THE
GOODWILL VISIT TO BURMA
OF THE APOLLO-12 ASTRONAUTS
MARCH 16-17, 1970**



Charles Conrad



Richard F. Gordon, Jr.



Alan L. Bean

**"WE ARE PROUD TO BE BURMESE, WE ARE
PROUD TO BE A PART OF MANKIND"**

AUNG BALA

APOLLO-12 ASTRO NAUTS VISIT BURMA

On March 16 and 17, 1970, the Apollo-12 astronauts—Charles Conrad, Richard Gordon and Alan Bean—paid a good-will visit to Burma. They had been to the moon and back and their visit created a great deal of interest.

There were many comments in the Burmese press about the astronauts' visit.

Columnist Aung Bala of the *Working People's Daily* said, "We are proud to be Burmese but at the same time we are proud to be a part of mankind. I say this after having heard the three Apollo-12 astronauts talk about their experiences while journeying to the moon. As they traveled through space, they said they felt and realized just how small the world of human beings is compared to the vastness of the universe surrounding our earth. Because they are ordinary men like the rest of us, we are proud of their feat because they make us proud to be humans."

There were other comments in the Burmese press in a similar vein. Colum-

nist U Yangon of the *Rangoon Daily* said, "The Apollo-12 astronauts are space heroes who have returned from the moon. The Burmese people are glad that they will be able to meet them personally and ask them questions."

Famous columnist U Thein Pe Myint, writing in *Botataung* said that the Apollo-12 astronauts "are not simply heroes with courage but scientists as well...Man may be small. But his spirit, knowledge and intelligence is truly large. The astronauts felt this and we share their feelings."

In the *New Light of Burma*, columnist Yechan wrote about the press conference given by the astronauts. He said, "In the answers they gave, they told us how small they felt as they saw the earth from outer space. They described the astounding strangeness of the universe as seen from the moon..."

In *Botataung*, columnist Jodu reported, "The Burmese people have shown a keen interest in man's attempt to conquer space... The successful

journey to the moon is a triumph not only of science but also of man... When the Apollo-12 astronauts arrive in Rangoon, our people will be eager to welcome them and honor them."

Those proved to be prophetic words as the Burmese people treated the Apollo-12 astronauts to a taste of their world-famous hospitality. Burmese lined the streets to cheer the astronauts as they motorcaded through downtown Rangoon. In addition to the motorcade, the astronauts' busy schedule included a press conference, a wreath-laying ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum, a visit to the famous Shwe Dagon Pagoda, a presentation ceremony and a dinner hosted by the Burmese government.

The Apollo-12 mission to the moon took place last November. At that time, with Richard Gordon piloting the command module "Yankee Clipper", Charles Conrad and Alan Bean took the lunar module "Intrepid" to the moon's surface and became the third

and fourth men in history to step foot on the moon.

An editorial in the *Guardian* on the day the astronauts departed Burma perfectly summed up the attitude of the Burmese people towards the Apollo-12 astronauts: "The visit of the astronauts gladdened our hearts because we had a chance of seeing these heroes in person. The three ordinary-looking Americans came to us as heroes of space with a halo of achievement of which the entire world is truly proud. They have gone to the moon and come back; they have seen this beautiful earth planet from a great distance, so small and shimmering. They told the world what they had seen and how they had felt when they were out in space. The world was fascinated by their accounts, and the thoughtful ones confirmed the realization of the smallness and the bigness of man. Man, a mite of the universe, proves by his deeds that he is as huge as a mammoth, and as brave as a lion..."



Apollo-12 Astronauts Charles Conrad, Richard Gordon and Alan Bean, accompanied by their wives, arrive Mingaladon Airport, Rangoon, Burma March 16, 1970 on a goodwill visit. To welcome them are Lt. Col. Aye Kyaw, Secretary, Ministry of Union Culture and also chairman of The Reception Committee for the Apollo-12 Astronauts Visit and other officials of the Reception Committee. Lt. Col. Aye Kyaw (in Burma Air Force uniform) together with U. S. Ambassador Arthur W. Hummel, Jr. and Mrs. Hummel lead the visiting party towards the VIP room.



Mrs. Arthur W. Hummel, Jr. wife of the American Ambassador greets Astronaut Alan Bean while Ambassador Hummel looks on.

APOLLO-12 ASTRONAUTS ARRIVE AT THE RANGOON AIRPORT

Photographs by Maung Maung Tin



Lt. Col. Aye Kyaw greets Astronaut Charles Conrad on his arrival at Mingaladon Airport. Mrs. Conrad, who accompanied her husband is greeted by Mrs. Arthur W. Hummel, Jr. (with parasol).



Daw Than Han, a member of the Reception Committee for the Apollo-12 Astronauts Visit, welcomes Astronaut Charles Conrad at the airport. At the same time, U Ohn Khin, also a member of the Reception Committee (center) greets Mrs. Conrad (behind Astronaut Conrad) who accompanies her husband.



A huge crowd waits to have a glance of the Apollo-12 astronauts on their arrival at Mingaladon Airport. In front of the terminal building the motorcade waits to take the astronauts to the Inva Lake Hotel.

PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE DOMINO



Apollo-12 Astronauts (from left to right) Richard Gordon, Charles Conrad and Alan Bean during the press conference held at the Domino Room of the Inya Lake Hotel.

A press conference held by the Apollo-12 Astronauts was attended by Rectors and Professors of the Universities and Institutes, scientists, columnists, journalists, newsmen and foreign correspondents. Here, with microphone in hand is Dr. Maung Maung Kha, Rector, Rangoon Arts and Science Universities.



ROOM, INYA LAKE HOTEL AND B.M.A.



LEFT: U Thein Pe Myint, well-known columnist, has a thought-provoking question for the Apollo-12 astronauts. RIGHT: Also at the press conference is U Ko Lay, editor, Working People's Daily.



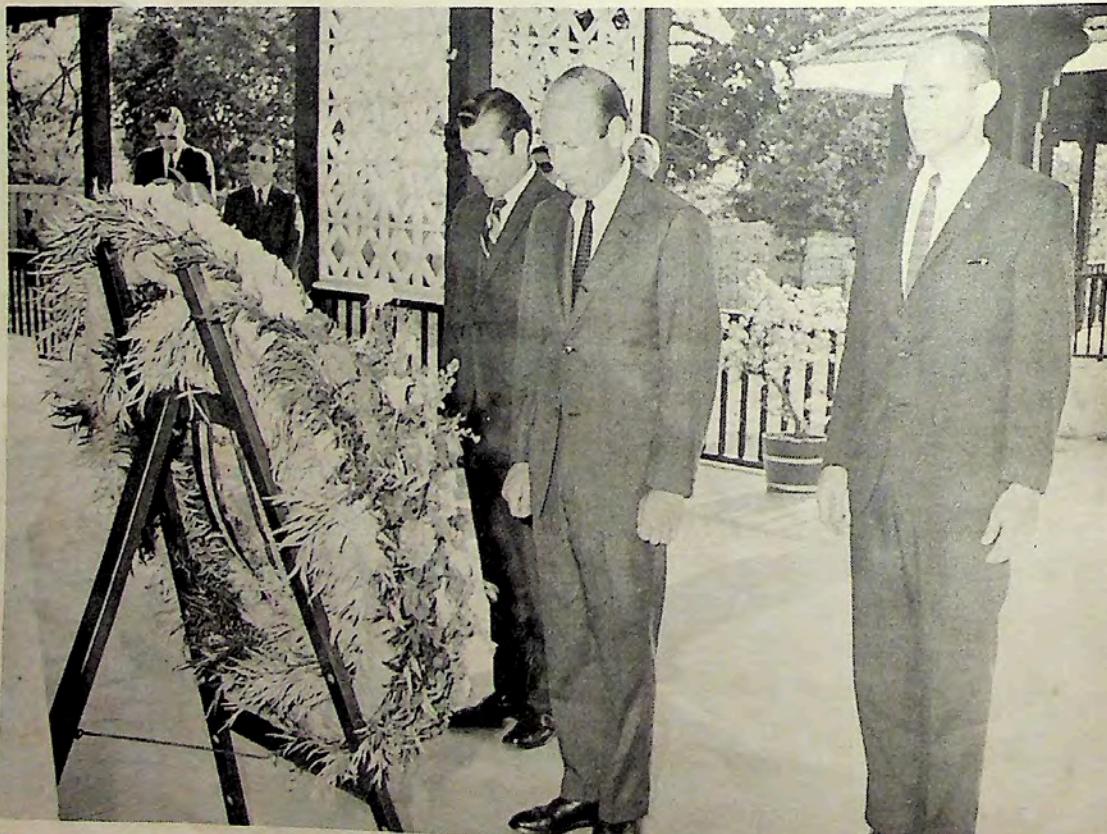
U Maung Maung, journalist, takes his turn at the microphone with a question for the Apollo-12 Astronauts at the press conference.



Dr. Clarence A. Jernigan, Chief of the Flight Medicine Branch of NASA Manned Space Center, accompanying the Apollo-12 Astronauts on their goodwill visit is seen here discussing space medicine with a panel of distinguished Burmese medical specialists at the Burma Medical Association (B.M.A.)

VISIT TO MARTYRS' MAUSOLEUM

RIGHT: At the Martyrs' Mausoleum laying a wreath at General Aung San's tomb are the Apollo-12 Astronauts Alan Bean (left), Charles Conrad (center) and Richard Gordon (right). BELOW: (From left to right) Richard Gordon, Charles Conrad and Alan Bean pay respects after laying the wreath.

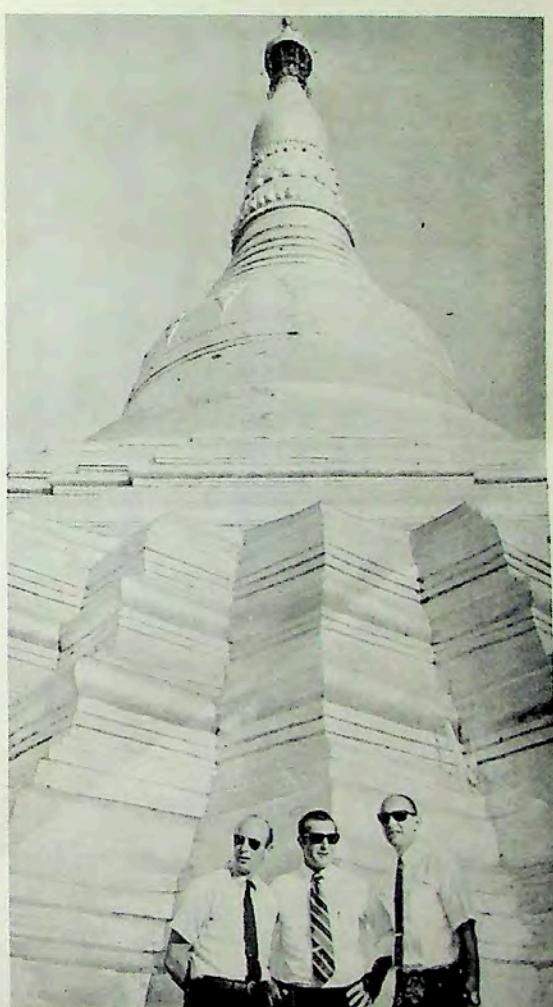


WE VISIT



THE MOON

WE VISIT



THE PAGODA

A TOUR OF THE SHWE DAGON PAGODA

A STEP INTO HISTORY



A STEP
ON THE MOON



A STEP INTO THE FAMOUS
SHWE DAGON PAGODA



The Apollo-12 Astronauts Charles Conrad, Richard Gordon and Alan Bean visit the Shwe Dagon Pagoda and are shown around the platform by Pagoda Trustees U. Kyaw Sein (left) and Bohmu Aung (right).



Astronaut Charles Conrad strikes the Maha Ghanda Bell at the Shwe Dagon Pagoda.



TOP & CENTER: Astronaut Charles Conrad signs the Visitors' Book of the Shwe Dagon Pagoda in the office of the Pagoda Trustees followed by Astronaut Alan Bean. BELOW: Mrs. Conrad (left, foreground) and Mrs. Gordon (center), accompanied by Daw Yee Yee, (right) Cultural Affairs Assistant, USIS, Burma, walk along the Shwe Dagon Pagoda platform, admiring the great shrine.



MOTORCADE THROUGH RANGOON

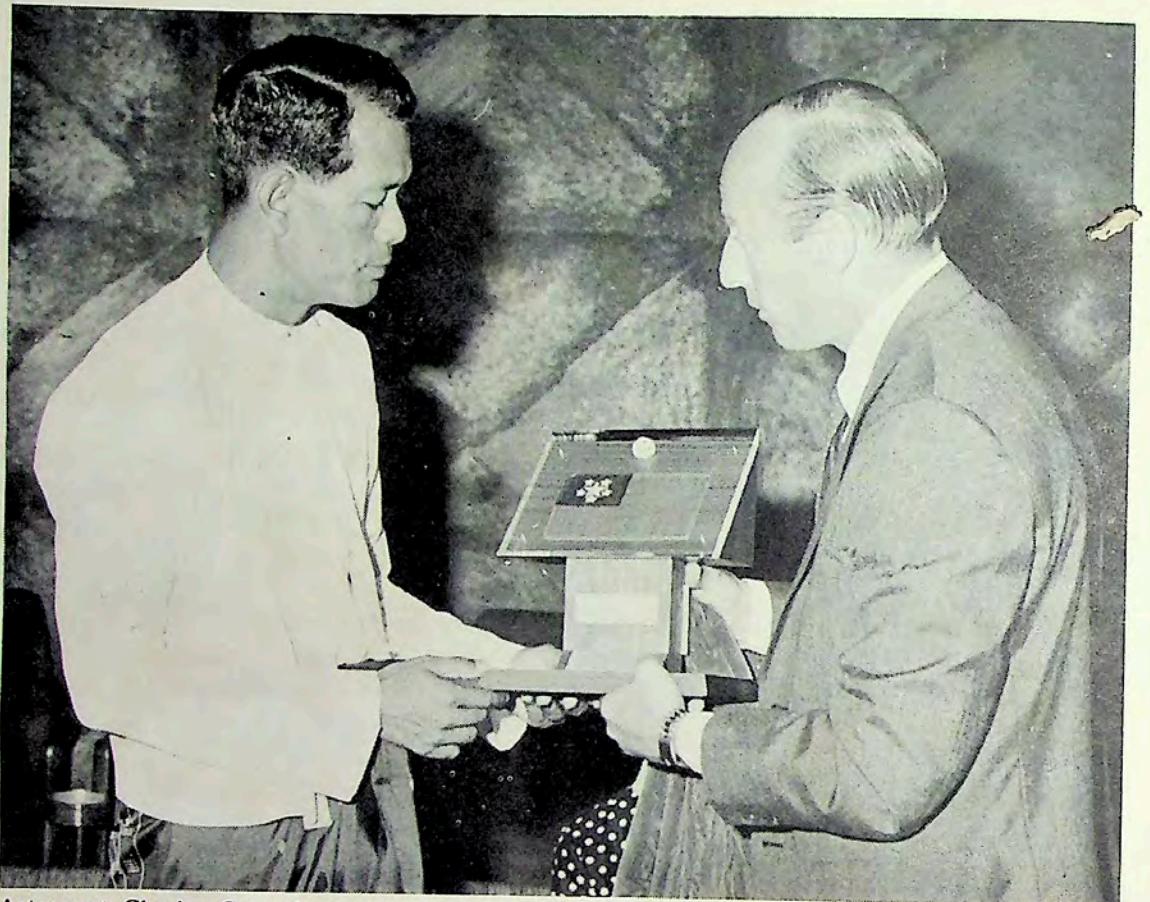


The Apollo-12 Astronauts motorcade down Maha Bandoola Street in the heart of Rangoon.



LEFT: As the motorcade proceeds down crowd-lined Sule Pagoda Road, Astronaut Charles Conrad shakes the hand of a well-wisher while Astronauts Richard Gordon and Alan Bean wave. ABOVE: Waving to cheering crowds, the motorcade circles the Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon. In the background is the Independence Monument (center). BELOW: Here, waving to cheering crowds, the motorcade inches its way along the Sule Pagoda Road in downtown Rangoon. Seen in the background is the Sule Pagoda. Charles Conrad is on the left, Richard Gordon in the center and Alan Bean is hidden in the background behind Richard Gordon.





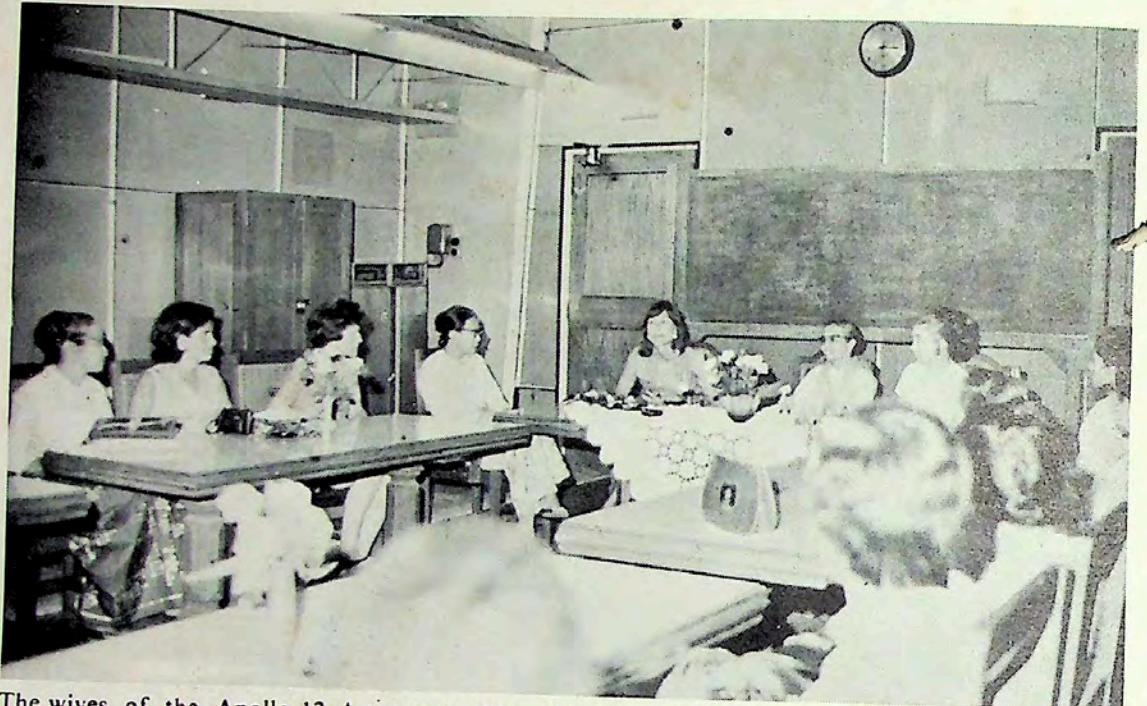
Astronaut Charles Conrad presents moon-rock samples and the Burma flag which the Apollo-12 Astronauts took to the moon and back to Information and Culture Minister Brigadier Thaung Dan at the dinner given by the Minister in their honor at the Inya Lake Hotel.

GIFTS PRESENTATION



LEFT: Before the official dinner honoring the Apollo-12 Astronauts, Alan Bean presents to Brigadier Thaung Dan a photo of the Apollo-12 moon-landing site. RIGHT: Later, Astronaut Richard Gordon presented to the people of Burma a replica of the Apollo-12 plaque left on the moon.

ABOVE: The wives of the Apollo-12 astronauts were presented with beautiful Burmese silk material woven in different colors. Shan bags, hand painted silk Burmese parasols and carved teak elephants. BELOW: Astronaut Alan Bean is seen admiring the gifts as he accepts them from U Khin Maung Thaung, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Union Culture.



The wives of the Apollo-12 Astronauts, Mrs. Conrad and Mrs. Gordon meet with a group of distinguished Burmese ladies at a tea given in their honor by the University Women's Association.

RECEPTION



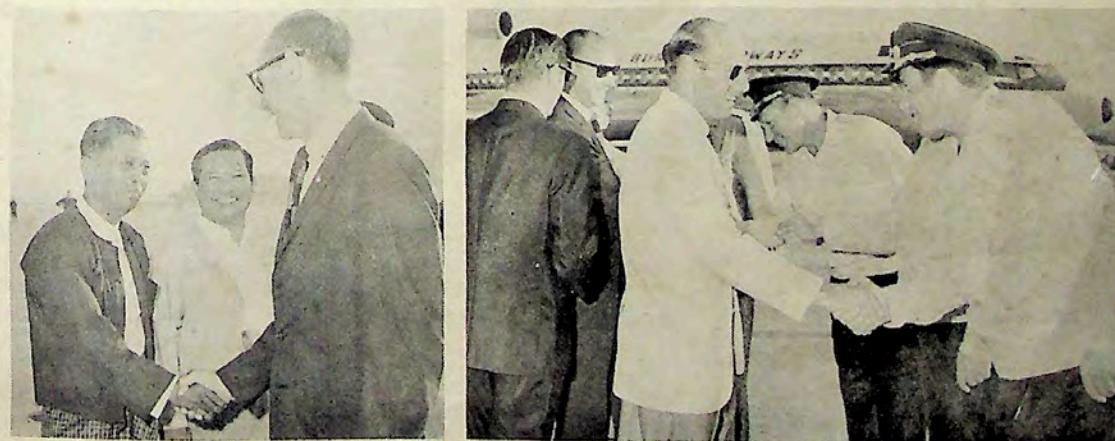
Mrs. Conrad (left) and Mrs. Gordon (right), pose with three little Burmese girls who presented them with Burmese orchids.

At The University Women's Association

ASTRONAUTS' DEPARTURE



Before their departure for Djakarta, the Apollo-12 Astronauts bid farewell to their Burmese hosts at the Mingaladon Airport. Picture shows Charles Conrad thanking U Thein Dan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Union Culture, for the wonderful time they had during their visit to Burma.



LEFT: Astronaut Alan Bean bids farewell to U Ohn Khin, a member of the Reception Committee for the Apollo-12 Visit, while Astronaut Charles Conrad (RIGHT) shake hands with a group of Russian Aeroflot pilots who, by co-incidence landed at Mingaladon Airport just before the Apollo-12 Astronauts' special U.S. Air Force plane was due to take off for their next stop, Djakarta.



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