



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Government has decided to ask Parliament to make available \$26.4 million for Colombo Plan purposes during the fiscal year 1955-56. This represents an increase of \$1 million over the amount approved by Parliament for use in the current year.

In the past capital aid and technical assistance have been provided to India, Pakistan and Ceylon and a limited amount of technical assistance to other member countries in the area. If this vote is approved it will permit the expansion of technical assistance being provided by Canada to the countries of South and Southeast Asia and the investigation of other projects which might be suitable for development in future years. This proposed vote would bring the total of Canadian assistance made available since the beginning of the Plan to \$128.4 million.

The Canadian Government reviews periodically the nature and extent of the assistance it might appropriately provide under the Colombo Plan.

During the coming year member governments of the Colombo Plan will give consideration to the future of the Plan after June 30, 1957, which is the end of the period referred to in the first Colombo Plan Report prepared at the 1950 Meeting in London. Such consideration will, of course, include the question of the amount of future contributions.

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