

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Canada's technical assistance to Colombo Plan countries falls into two categories. On the one hand, Canadian experts are sent to the South-East Asia area as teachers, advisers and technicians: on the other, Asians come to Canada for periods of training and study.

In the past ten years, 207 Canadians have served on individual technical assistance assignments under the Colombo Plan. They have included school and university teachers, flying instructors, fisheries experts, agriculturalists, experts in cooperatives, engineers, accountants, nurses, doctors, geologists, statisticians, scientists, administrators and a variety of other experts. Many experts were sent to advise and teach in connection with capital assistance projects: for example, biologists, cooperatives and fishing experts to the Fisheries Project in Ceylon; and a team of power plant operation experts to the Warsak Project in Pakistan. In some cases, technical experts were accompanied on their assignments by their wives, who showed remarkable initiative in voluntarily taking up teaching work in schools or giving instruction in home handicrafts, and generally helping in other ways during their stay with their husbands. Some Canadian teachers and their wives who went to remote jungle areas, found that they were also required to discharge medical and nursing duties, and even to advise on simple farming improvements.

Colombo Plan Students in Canada

The 1,800 "trainees" from Asia who came to Canada under the Colombo Plan in the same period have studied a very wide range of subjects. The broad categories (with many subdivisions) into which their studies can be classified, number approximately 60 separate fields of knowledge and include such subjects as aerial surveying, agriculture, cooperatives education, engineering, fisheries, forestry, health, industrial development, public administration, social welfare, statistics, and vocational training. Every effort is made to link training in Canada with related projects at home: this applied particularly to engineers connected with the hydro-electric power development projects already mentioned. Perhaps the most noteworthy example of this was a group of over 40 scientists, technicians and operators from India's Department of Atomic Energy, who spent varying periods in Canada studying the NRX-type atomic reactor at Chalk River. The Chalk River reactor is similar to that built by Canada at Bombay under the Colombo Plan.