

The potentialities of a technical assistance programme are almost unlimited having in mind the effects that the spread of technical knowledge will have upon economic and social development. Such assistance is an investment in prosperity in which all will share. We were struck by that part of the speech of the Honourable Delegate from the Philippines, in which he described the way in which his country had taken advantage of the facilities offered to it by the United Nations. As he has suggested, this programme brings together men from opposite ends of the earth. It is of paramount importance, therefore, that both those providing and those receiving assistance should demonstrate wisdom and responsibility in their joint operations.

Outside the technical assistance programme of the United Nations, but not unrelated to it, many other steps have been taken in the last few years by the free industrial countries to contribute towards the solution to this problem of under-development. One thinks of the multilateral and multi-various activities of the International Bank which is now well launched into its primary task of promoting economic development; one thinks also of the foreign assistance programme of the United States and other major industrial countries. Moreover, and I shall say more of this in a moment, there has been recently launched by some nations of the Commonwealth the Colombo Plan, which is a co-operative enterprise for achieving precisely the same ends as those which we are trying to achieve in this Committee. These activities have been promoted, so far as the contributing states are concerned, in all cases, without compulsion, without thought of individual or national gain, and without creating any threat to the political independence of the countries concerned. Such motivations are in direct contrast to those of certain countries represented on this Committee who have repeatedly refused to co-operate in any of these United Nations undertakings, despite the evidence that has been brought to this conference table of the great needs that remain to be met.

I should like to revert at this moment to the Colombo Plan. As members of this Committee know, my own Government, in conjunction with other Commonwealth countries, has set aside substantial funds for assistance to the economic development of South-East Asia and for the provision of technical aid. We do not regard the Colombo Plan as a substitute for a United Nations programme but essentially as additional or supplementary, the necessity of which was determined by the special political considerations of this area, and the close association which we enjoy together. This is a co-operative enterprise in which the recipients participate in the planning and the execution of the programmes. My own Government has been greatly encouraged by the enterprise exhibited by these countries and by the measures that they have taken in the domestic sphere to facilitate their own development by making the best use of such external assistance. The degree of co-operation which has developed during the planning and initial stages of this Plan augurs well for its future. In more recent months, we have been impressed by the understanding that they have shown with respect to the difficulties of supply which we have been facing and we, in turn, have gained a deeper understanding of the problems involved in utilising external assistance. Our Government has appropriated 25 million dollars for use this year. Recently under this plan Canada authorized 10 million dollars worth of wheat to go to