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It was announced jointly by the Governments of India and Canada that Canada had offered an NRX atomic reactor to India under the Colombo Plan and that this offer had been accepted by India. Following discussions on various details which will take place this month, it is expected that preliminary work relating to this project will begin shortly. It is expected that a team of Indian scientists, including Dr. H.J. Bhabha, head of the Indian Department of Atomic Energy, will visit Canada for these discussions with Canadian scientists and government officials. A bilateral agreement will be worked out covering arrangements for this project.

This type of reactor is a high-powered research and experimental unit of the kind now in operation at the Canadian atomic energy establishment at Chalk River.

In the original message in which this offer was made to India, the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, expressed the hope that such a reactor would serve India as well as it had served Canada in research and in the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy. In accepting the offer Mr. Nehru indicated that his government would be prepared to allow accredited foreign scientists including those from other Colombo Plan countries in South and Southeast Asia to use the facilities that will be available at the atomic energy centre in India where the reactor will be located. The provision of this unit will not only bring about close co-operation between the scientists of Canada and of those countries who will be benefitting from the reactor but will also be another link between India and Canada.

The Canadian Government will ask Parliament to appropriate additional funds for this purpose in order that the project can be carried out without reducing the regular economic development assistance to be made available by Canada to India and other Colombo Plan countries in South and Southeast Asia.

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