

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Addressing the members of the House of Commons and the Senate on the occasion of the opening of the third session of the Twenty-Fourth Parliament on January 14, His Excellency the Governor-General said, in part:

"...My Prime Minister looks forward to meeting with the leaders of the other Commonwealth Governments early in May. The Commonwealth is in a state of rapid constitutional development....

"We welcome the spirit which has made possible the progress of the past year in meetings between the leaders of great nations and we believe that with wisdom and patience the series of meetings arranged to commence in Paris in May can bring about the results which all desire. Canada will be prepared to assist wholeheartedly by consultation, particularly in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with those immediately involved in these efforts to achieve just diplomatic settlements.

"A lasting peace between nations, founded upon understanding and tolerance, is the strongest aspiration of Canadians. The Government continues to regard as a primary goal the achievement of the greatest possible measure of controlled disarmament. Canada will devote every effort to discharging its responsibilities as a member of the ten nation disarmament committee....

"We are heartened by the unanimous approval given by the United Nations to the Canadian proposal to sample and analyse more widely and effectively the radioactive content of the atmosphere, soil and food. For this purpose necessary funds to enable Canada to take a leading part in this work will be requested.

"It must be expected that the recent technological advances in the penetration of outer space will lead to further dramatic developments. Canada welcomes the opportunity to participate actively in the United Nations Committee intended to ensure that outer space is used only for peaceful purposes.

"...Substantial progress has now been made in finding a satisfactory basis for the development of the power of the Columbia River in co-operation with the United States and negotiations for this purpose have now been initiated with the Government of the United States. The results will be placed before Parliament for approval and for the authority to take the measures necessary to bring about the full use of this most valuable source of power. The Government of Canada remains ready to participate with British Columbia in the joint development of the potentials of this great river.

"...Legislation to provide for a Canadian Bill of Rights will be placed before you for your approval.

"...Bills will also be submitted for your approval to give added status and responsibility to the Territorial Councils of the Yukon

and Northwest Territories and to improve the administration of justice in the Territories.

"...You will be requested to revise the Civil Service Act and a Special Committee of the House of Commons will be proposed for the consideration of the bill. Amendments to the Public Service Superannuation Act will also be placed before you.

"...Legislation will be introduced to give Indians the franchise in Federal elections. You will be invited to re-establish the Joint Committee on Indian Affairs.

"You will be asked to authorize the establishment of a new department to be concerned with affairs relating to the forests of Canada and their most effective utilization and conservation, and to assume responsibility for other related resources...."

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COLOMBO PLAN - TENTH ANNIVERSARY

January 14, 1960, marked the tenth anniversary of the conception of the Colombo Plan. Meeting in Colombo on January 14, 1950, the foreign ministers of Canada and a number of other Commonwealth countries agreed that the resources and technical skills of their respective nations might be combined to further, by co-operative effort, the economic development of South and Southeast Asia. Within the year, a Consultative Committee of ministers had been formed and plans drawn up for the economic development of the Commonwealth countries of the region.

In the ten years since this unique partnership was begun, the Colombo Plan has expanded well beyond the original membership of seven Commonwealth governments, until it now includes all the countries of South and Southeast Asia, as well as Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Japan. The original six-year term of the Colombo Plan has twice been extended. At its November 1959 meeting in Indonesia, the Consultative Committee agreed that the Colombo Plan should now run until 1966 and that a further renewal should be considered in 1964.

In keeping with the purpose of the Colombo Plan, Canada has provided capital grants to assist in major development projects and technical assistance in the form of training opportunities in Canada for students from the Colombo Plan region, the provision of technical experts from Canada on loan to the various regional governments and other assistance for technical training facilities in the area.

Since 1950, Canada has contributed \$281.7 million in Colombo Plan aid. The annual Canadian contribution was increased this year to \$50 million and the Government has expressed its intention to ask Parliament for \$50 million in each of the forthcoming two years.

The tenth anniversary of the Colombo Plan conception is being marked by messages from