

contribution of \$2 million to the United Nations Special Fund for the first year of its operation. And with special reference to the Colombo Plan we have undertaken, subject to the approval of the Canadian Parliament, to increase our annual contribution for the next three years by roughly one-half from the current level of \$35 million a year to \$50 million a year. In this forward planning, countries may find it helpful to have this early indication of the Canadian Government's intention to contribute in larger measure to the Plan. We have also signified our intention to enlarge our aid programme to the West Indies Federation and to our Commonwealth partners in Africa.

During the fiscal year ending in March 1958, my Government allocated over \$39 million from the Colombo Plan Fund to assist in the financing of agreed projects located in the region. A substantial part of this amount was used to provide additional financing for projects which have been under way for some time, such as the atomic reactor in India and the Warsak hydro-electric project in Pakistan. Our partners in these and similar undertakings would, I am sure, agree that the progress made towards their completion in the past year has been most encouraging. Since the inception of the Plan, we have found that the difficulties which inevitably arise in the execution of joint projects have steadily diminished. This improvement reflects, I think, not only a better mutual understanding of the conditions and methods governing the execution of such joint projects, but also, and more importantly, a deeper appreciation of each other's problems.

A substantial part of our allocation in the year 1957-58 was used to provide metals, such as aluminum and copper. This is not a new feature in our aid programme; we have provided metals in the past, but never in such large quantities. This shift in the content of our programme was made at the request of the countries themselves and reflects the changes in the needs of these countries brought about by the process of economic development. We have tried, and will continue to try, to make our programme as flexible as possible.

During the current fiscal year, Parliament voted an additional \$35 million for assistance under the Colombo Plan. Discussions with a number of member countries are quite far advanced and agreement on projects should be reached in the near future. This brings the total Canadian contribution to the Colombo Plan since its inception to over \$231 million. This figure does not include \$21.5 million in grants and \$35 million in loan funds made available to Colombo Plan participants for the purchase of commodities.

In conclusion, I assure you of the continued warm support which public opinion in Canada is giving to the policy of the Canadian Government to co-operate with the less-developed countries in their economic development programmes. We realize, of course, that most of the effort and most of the burden must be, and is being, shouldered by these countries themselves. On the other hand we recognize that when all has been done that can be done, there will remain a need for assistance from abroad, both by way of private investment and by means of resources made available by governments and international institutions. It was this recognition that led us jointly to bring the Colombo Plan into being some eight years ago. I think we can take pride in the results that we have achieved in close co-operation with one another. This co-operation will lead us to the objectives we all seek.