



PRESS RELEASE

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On January 20 the High Commissioners for Canada in New Delhi and in Karachi formally concluded agreements with the Governments of India and Pakistan respectively for the establishment in both countries of Biological Control Centres as part of Canada's contribution under the Colombo Plan.

This project originated at the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Conference of 1950 at which the Indian and Pakistani delegates requested that consideration be given to the establishment in their countries of biological research stations to develop natural methods of controlling insect pests and weeds. At the request of the Governments of India and Pakistan, Canada arranged for a study of this proposal by Mr. Wendell F. Sellers, Assistant Director of the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control who visited Pakistan and India in the early part of 1952.

Subsequently Canada agreed to contribute funds necessary for the erection and equipment, and the maintenance during a five-year period, of stations at Bangalore, India, and at Rawalpindi, Pakistan, to cost \$38,340 and \$46,140 respectively. The Governments of the two countries in which the centres will be established are providing the sites and the necessary local services. The Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control is making available the services of Mr. Sellers for a period of eighteen months while these two stations are established and Canada is helping under the Technical Assistance Programme to meet some of the costs in this connection. It is expected that at the end of the eighteen month period Pakistani and Indian officials will be employed as officers in charge of these two stations.

The Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control has at present laboratories in Central Europe, the West Indies and California. The headquarters of the Institute are in Ottawa and it has world-wide connections in the field of entomological research. It is anticipated that the two new stations in Pakistan and India will form valuable links in the existing chain of laboratories administered through the C.I.B. and contribute to world control of insect pests and weeds in addition to making a direct contribution to the biological control problems of India and Pakistan.

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