

which inundated large areas and destroyed crops and homes. Canada provided two plane-loads of urgent medical supplies, some from Canadian Government stocks and some from the Canadian Red Cross. These were flown direct to Colombo by the RCAF. Subsequently, we considered the request of the Government of Ceylon for a more substantial volume of assistance once the immediate emergency was over. We decided that we would make available to Ceylon \$3 million worth of flour. This will provide food to replace the destroyed crops and also, when sold by the Government of Ceylon, will provide local currency which will assist them with their reconstruction budget. This \$3 million worth of flour is part of a \$15 million grant which has been announced in Parliament and which makes it possible for Canadian wheat and flour to be used to meet acute food shortages in India, Ceylon, and Pakistan.

UN Aid Programmes

Another important way in which we are able to give assistance to less fortunate countries is through the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies. The most important of the United Nations aid programmes now in operation is the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme. This has an annual budget of \$30 million a year, to which Canada's annual \$2 million is the largest per capita national contribution.

A new and encouraging development in the field of United Nations aid is the proposal to establish a new UN fund to finance certain more substantial projects which are basic to economic development, but which have been outside the scope of the existing programme. Canadian representatives last autumn indicated in the UN discussions on this proposal that if suitable administrative arrangements are made and if the fund is broadly shared by the UN membership, we will be prepared to make an appropriate contribution. Canada has been chosen a member of a Preparatory Committee which will be considering the detailed arrangements necessary to call this new fund into operation. Next month these important discussions will begin in New York. I think we can confidently expect that the next General Assembly will see a stronger UN instrument ready to help the under-developed countries.

NATO

I have left to the end my remarks about our role in NATO. The importance that we attach to our relations with the United Nations, and to our co-operation with the nations of Asia and Africa should not be left unqualified. In the face of the uncertainty created by the enigma of Soviet power, and because we could not rely on the United Nations as a collective security agency, we had no alternative but to join in building NATO with nations who felt the same apprehensions. NATO was conceived as a response to a strategic threat, and it remains the main foundation of our defence policy. It is not pleasant to think