



# PRESS RELEASE

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1956.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Co-operation in session at Colombo, Ceylon, has elected a Canadian, Dr. Nathan Keyfitz as Director of the Council's Bureau for Technical Co-operation. Dr. Keyfitz will take up his appointment in April. He will succeed an Australian, Dr. P.W. Curtin, who has been the Director during the past two years.

The members of the Council, to which the Bureau is responsible, are drawn from the Permanent representatives of Colombo Plan countries in Ceylon. The current Council President is the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires in Colombo and the Canadian Representative is the Canadian High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr. James J. Hurley, OBE. The Director of the Bureau is an official especially seconded to the post from one of the member countries. At the Consultative Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan in Singapore last October, Canada was asked by many of the Council members to nominate a candidate for the position of Director.

Dr. Keyfitz, who is at present the Senior Research Statistician with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, was born in Westmount, Quebec in 1913. Dr. Keyfitz is a graduate of McGill University, studied at the Institute of Statistics, Raleigh, North Carolina and received a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago in 1952. Under United Nations auspices Dr. Keyfitz was in Burma in 1951 as an Advisor on the Burmese Census and was associated with the National Planning Bureau of Indonesia in 1953 and 1954. He has recently published a technical book in the Indonesian language.

Dr. Keyfitz joined the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in 1936 and was appointed the Senior Research Statistician in 1950. Dr. Keyfitz will represent the Council's Bureau for Technical Co-operation at the Colombo Plan Council Committee Meeting in New Zealand next autumn. His wife and two children will accompany him to Colombo.

Under the Colombo Plan technical aid is given bilaterally on a country to country basis. The Bureau for Technical Co-operation has as its duty the processing of requests on such aid from members of South and South-East Asia and endeavours to find the assistance required from other countries who are members of the Colombo Plan. A continuing task is to ensure that over-lapping is avoided among the various technical assistance schemes and the United States Government and the United Nations Technical Assistance Board have appointed liaison officers with the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Co-operation.

Canada has provided training facilities for nearly four hundred trainees from Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaya, Vietnam, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand.

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