

Now that the programme is under way we shall be able to operate more and more on the basis of specific requests from governments for both experts and training facilities. The Government believes, as do most members of the Colombo Plan, that technical co-operation will probably do most good at this stage if it concentrates on the training of middle and lower grade workers in their own countries. In planning future activities every effort will be made to shift the emphasis in this direction.

For each of the past two fiscal years, this Parliament has authorized an appropriation of \$400,000 for Canadian participation in the Technical Co-operation Programme of the Colombo Plan. Because of the delays in getting a programme of this kind off the ground and running smoothly the total value of the services and facilities extended by Canada has lagged behind the amount of funds available. However, the programme has been steadily increasing its pace. ...

The Secretary of State for External Affairs in a public address three weeks ago, said:

"The Canadian government regards the Colombo Programme for Technical Co-operation as a temporary supplement to the technical assistance activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in South and Southeast Asia.

"We hope that the United Nations, if it is given appropriate support in these activities, will be able to assume by the end of a three- or four-year period the major responsibility for technical assistance in South and Southeast Asia and we are urging the greatest possible use of all United Nations agencies offering technical assistance to South and Southeast Asia. That is not to say that as a participant in the six-year Colombo Plan for the economic development of the area and particularly as a member of the Commonwealth we will not have a direct and continuing interest in special technical assistance to those countries. But we do not wish the two approaches to this problem to overlap or conflict."

The expanded Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations is a vast and concrete plan. This plan is in effect a very comprehensive one, and at the same time a most practical one; it is of no mean significance in the world of today, having as its objective a pooling of technical knowledge for the benefit of all peoples. This plan is intended to be one of the essential factors in the economic and social co-operation described as a fundamental task of the United Nations by the Charter itself, and particularly by Article 55:

The technical assistance missions and experts constitute the "other forces of the United Nations." While the soldiers of the United Nations are fighting in Korea to repel aggression, it is the privilege of these other "forces" to contribute directly to the well-being of the countries in which their operations are conducted and in so doing to help easing the present world tension.

Here for the first time almost all countries of the free world have co-operated in pooling their resources to give technical assistance to governments which are in need and which request it, but of course the Soviet bloc refused to participate, despite their constant professions of solicitude for the welfare of the peoples of the under-developed countries.