

In Viet Nam the area under rice has increased by nearly 500,000 acres since 1951. The consumption of electric power increased from 195 million k.w.h. in 1952 to 238 million k.w.h. in 1953. The output of coal increased from 638,000 tons in 1951 to 894,000 tons in 1952 and is expected to exceed 1,000,000 tons in 1953.

The report recognizes that by far the large part of an economic development programme in any country has to come from the resources of the country itself. External aid nevertheless has a vital role to play. Since the inception of the Colombo Plan substantial aid has been provided, both in the form of goods and of technical assistance. Some of this has been supplied by the countries in the region to one another and some has been received from countries outside South and Southeast Asia. Grants and loans so far made available by the countries outside the area for economic development purposes in this region since the end of 1950 have totalled more than \$1,000 million (or about £360 million). This assistance has come from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, U.K. and U.S.A. and the I.B.R.D.

The report notes that the supply position for imported equipment and materials has generally improved thus easing somewhat certain of the difficulties experienced in the early stages of the programmes. The report emphasizes that the decline in raw material prices from the high levels reached in 1950-51 has left most of the countries in the area with greatly reduced resources. At the same time costs of the development programmes have risen appreciably since their inception.

Although the problems are serious, it is fundamental that the development programmes should continue to move forward as rapidly as possible. It is, therefore, clearly necessary that the countries of the area should make the maximum efforts to mobilize their own resources. The need for external aid to supplement these resources continues to be at least as great as in the first years of the plan.

The Colombo Plan countries have shown, in the face of the magnitude of the task, that they can plan both boldly and realistically and readjust themselves to good fortune and bad. Their courage and resourcefulness have been severely tested in the past years and the manner in which they have responded is perhaps the surest guarantee that the Colombo Plan will come up to, and even surpass, the hopes with which it began.

Canada's Contribution

An extract from the report explaining Canada's contribution to the Colombo Plan is reproduced below.

Canada has so far made available to the countries of South and Southeast Asia through the Colombo Plan, in a series of annual parliamentary votes, a total of approximately \$76.6 million. Of this amount \$75 million was for economic assistance and about \$1.6 million for technical assistance. In order to facilitate effective planning and execution, the Canadian Parliament this year agreed to the carrying over of unexpended Colombo Plan monies from year to year.

Capital Aid

Canada has provided assistance to India, Pakistan and Ceylon in accordance with a general statement of principles agreed with each of these Governments. These principles envisage the provision of aid in the form of goods and services related to specific development programmes. Assistance may be on either a grant or a loan basis, depending on the nature of the project, but so far