

encouraged the growth of friendly co-operation between countries from various parts of the world - from Asia, North America and Europe. The original members of the Colombo Plan belonged to the Commonwealth of Nations, but since Commonwealth membership should never be a limiting factor, it was right and proper that membership in the Plan should have been extended to include, as it now does, virtually every country in South and Southeast Asia.

There cannot surely be too much of this kind of contact by which we get to know each other better and understand each other's problems and policies.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to Canadians that they have been able, under the Colombo Plan, to give some assistance to this country, which has chosen to work out its economic destiny by democratic means. Canadians recognize that the more quickly the material standard of living rises in India, the better off we all shall be. We, like you, are convinced that economic and social progress are essential to a durable peace. We have backed your judgment that Indian resources are capable of supporting a fuller and richer life, and we have some knowledge of the great efforts which your people are making to improve their conditions. The tremendous drive behind your first Five Year Plan and its impressive results, and the massive and imaginative second Five Year Plan now in the making as a worthy successor, give sufficient evidence that, compared with what you are doing out of your own resources, the foreign aid you receive is modest. But it is, I think, important - both economically and politically.

On Tuesday of this week, I had the honour to attend the formal opening, in connection with the Mayurakshi River Development, of a dam which you have honoured my country (and I assure you we greatly appreciate the honour) by calling the "Canada Dam". It is part of a multi-purpose project which will be bringing water to 600,000 parched acres and turning out 4,000 kilowatts of hydro-electric power.

Developments such as these are indicative of the wise use to which Colombo Plan funds are put by India. In this case, the external aid consisted in large part of the proceeds from the sale of the Canadian wheat given to India under the Colombo Plan. The rupees thus obtained were used to pay Santhal villagers for construction work which would increase rice production. This is part of the magic of the Colombo Plan by which wheat from two successive Canadian harvests will be turned into rich rice crops in India year after year. This is indeed the reality of international co-operation and behind it is the equal reality of friendship.

There is another Indian-Canadian Colombo Plan project which I would like to mention. As you may know, it was announced jointly by your Government and mine on September 16 last that Canada had offered, and India had accepted, an NRK atomic reactor under the Colombo Plan. A team of Indian scientists led by Dr. H.J. Bhabha, head of your Department of Atomic Energy, visited Canada recently for discussions on this matter with our scientists and officials. It will be a great result if, between us, we can harness for the welfare of the masses of India, and of this whole Asian area, the forces released by the splitting of the atom. I am sure that it can be done and, if so, we in Canada will benefit too.