



A Canadian photographic survey team, with Pakistani assistants, at Samungli Airport, Quetta, Pakistan, carrying out a resources survey of West Pakistan.

ment is technical skill and those who have it must share it with those who have not, if sound and lasting development is to be realized.

While technical assistance programmes present many difficulties in their execution, which will be discussed in more detail later on in this article, it is capital assistance — that is, the financing of economic development— which calls for the heavy outlay of funds. The growth of productive power is a slow and gradual process which must be spread over generations as has, indeed, been the experience in the advanced countries of the West. But it is the early stages of this development which are the most costly and the most difficult to initiate. Basic services, such as railways, roads, ports and harbours, electricity and irrigation, require a vast capital investment. In democratic countries, moreover, a certain minimum of social services must go hand in hand with programmes of economic development, if these are to command popular support. Countries in South and Southeast Asia are at different levels of

development but they all require heavy expenditure on basic services. Once the process of development gets well under way, its effects are cumulative, and financial and other difficulties become less.

Estimated Expenditure

The Colombo Plan as drawn up in September-October 1950, envisaged a total expenditure of some \$5 billion for capital development during a six-year period in the Commonwealth countries of South and Southeast Asia. The figure is based on the requirements of the Commonwealth countries or territories because only they had worked out national development plans at that stage. It was estimated at the time the Colombo Plan was established that about \$3 billion of the total sum required would have to come from outside the area itself. More recent assessments indicate that the requirements in external finance are likely to be even higher because of the deterioration in the terms of trade of the Asian countries as a result of the reduced world