

The other scheme which we are now examining is from another Asian Commonwealth partner. When the partition took place between India and Pakistan, millions of Hindus moved south; millions of Moslems moved north. This created a colossal refugee problem with 7 millions of such people in one country alone living anyhow they can in cities, in camps, etc.

Obviously this is a most pressing problem with dangerous potentialities, and a scheme has been evolved for putting these people in an agricultural settlement with housing, irrigated land with diesel engined pumps, and all the other machinery necessary for such a project.

We are working on a scheme jointly with Australia and New Zealand under which those countries will initially supply the livestock and we the agricultural machinery for an experimental stock farm, once started such experimental farms will need livestock from Canadian herds, more and more machinery. Absolutely all purchasing under the Colombo Plan will be done by the Government purchasing agent, the Canadian Commercial Corporation.

...Naturally from countries with famine problems we receive requests for large quantities of grain. It is extremely difficult to turn these down, although the Colombo Plan was not designed for that kind of relief. The intentions of the Plan were to provide capital equipment of a permanent nature which could raise the standards of living. But as our Oriental friends point out to us, and their argument is unanswerable, it is useless to give us beautiful equipment for use in two or three years time if in the meantime we have all died of famine! And so we have evolved a scheme whereby when we do send food grains the recipient country will set up what we call counterpart funds, that is, they will pay into a bank in their own currency the equivalent of the value of food grains we send. From these counterpart funds they will pay for that part of capital assistance which must in any case be built in their countries. Such, for instance, as dams, buildings to house equipment, etc., &c.

It only remains for me now gentlemen to say this, that the Colombo Plan is in my opinion and in the opinion of many others, a progressive step towards the peace and prosperity of the world. If imaginatively used it can build that bridge between East and West which is so vitally necessary. It can only succeed if it receives the full support of Commonwealth countries and that means the full support of every Canadian, no matter what his walk in life and particularly of every business man. I do not believe that the Colombo Plan or any other Plan can rehabilitate the Great Far East and fill the stomachs of these starving people but I do believe that in this extremely complicated and difficult world the Colombo Plan, the United Nations Plan, Mr. Truman's Point 4 Programme, can at least begin to survey the problem and can make a start and from that start I would hope that the capital resources of the free world, plus its manufacturers and merchants, would find it possible to march across the bridge which we hope to build through such Plans, and to let the productive capacity of Finance and Industry bring these long neglected people into the orbit of our prosperity.

...Unless you are all prepared to give us your full support the Colombo Plan cannot succeed and it is for that support that I plead with you today. The argument for the Colombo Plan is unanswerable from a humanitarian point of view, it is also Canadian bread cast upon the waters.