



## PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 92

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1956.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE \$2 MILLION DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR ASSISTANCE TO CEYLON UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 1956-57. AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN CEYLON AND THE CEYLONESE PRIME MINISTER TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK IN COLOMBO DURING THE VISIT TO CEYLON OF THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN, MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE.

MR. MARTIN, WHO ATTENDED THE COLOMBO PLAN MEETING IN WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, IS VISITING SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA TO SEE AT FIRST HAND MANY OF THE PROJECTS ASSISTED BY CANADA UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN. WHILE IN SINGAPORE EARLIER IN DECEMBER, MR. MARTIN INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT THERE THAT CANADA WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE \$50,000 FOR ASSISTANCE TO A POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL IN SINGAPORE.

A VARIETY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN CEYLON WILL RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM COLOMBO PLAN FUNDS PROVIDED BY CANADA IN 1956-57. AN AERIAL SURVEY OF CEYLON'S NATURAL RESOURCES, WHICH WAS BEGUN IN 1955, WILL BE CONTINUED AND A FURTHER AMOUNT OF \$336,000 WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE, BRINGING THE TOTAL PROVIDED BY CANADA FOR THIS PROJECT TO ABOUT \$500,000. CANADA WILL SUPPLY TWO MORE DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES VALUED TOGETHER AT \$370,000 TO IMPROVE CEYLON'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. EIGHT DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED IN PREVIOUS YEARS. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE PILOT FISHERIES PROJECT AT MUTUAL, BRINGING THIS PROJECT TO COMPLETION. EQUIPMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL STATIONS AND SCHOOLS AND FOR PEST CONTROL WILL BE SENT TO CEYLON. CANADA WILL PROVIDE FURTHER ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES COSTING \$400,000 IN THE GAL OYA VALLEY, WHERE THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT IS RE-SETTLING PEOPLE FROM THE MORE CROWDED PARTS OF THE ISLAND.

IN ADDITION CANADA WILL CONTINUE SENDING SHIPMENTS OF FLOUR TO CEYLON, FOR WHICH THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES COUNTERPART FUNDS OF RUPEES TO BE USED FOR AGREED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. THE PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED IN THIS WAY INCLUDE A VETERINARY BUILDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CEYLON, A BUILDING FOR A TRADE SCHOOL AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL ROADS. THE 1956-57 PROGRAMME PROVIDES FOR CANADIAN SHIPMENTS OF FLOUR VALUED AT ABOUT \$640,000.

THE SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL IS TO BE A CENTRE FOR ADVANCED COMMERCIAL AND ENGINEERING TRAINING FOR STUDENTS FROM THE WHOLE OF THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA AREA. THE GRANT OF \$50,000 IS TO EQUIP A SECTION OF THE SCHOOL WHICH WOULD BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE CANADIAN GIFT. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST ASSISTANCE OF A CAPITAL NATURE PROVIDED TO SINGAPORE FROM CANADA UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN.