

For the eight years following its inception, the Colombo Plan was Canada's only bilateral aid programme, and to it the Canadian Parliament appropriated annually the sum of \$25 million. Despite the addition of other areas of the world to the Canadian assistance effort, the Colombo Plan region continues to receive the bulk of Canadian aid funds. Between 1950 and March of this year, bilateral assistance provided to the area totalled \$800 million, of which an overwhelming proportion went to India and Pakistan. In this respect, Canadian allocations followed proportionately similar lines to those of the United States, Britain and West Germany. I am frequently asked by Canadians why such a large proportion of our funds are allocated to the Indian subcontinent. It is important to remember, when making comparisons of this nature, that India and Pakistan contain more people than the continents of Africa and Latin America put together. In the last 15 years, aid to India from all sources and of all types has amounted to little more than \$20 a person, but this low per capita figure nevertheless represents the staggering aggregate investment of \$9 billion.

The character of our aid to India and Pakistan has been one of heavy emphasis on power infrastructure projects, which often benefit agriculture as well, plus an increasing amount of grant aid food. Our food aid programme to India alone in 1966 was \$75 million in grants, a contribution which moved us ahead of the United States as a supplier on a comparative basis either of population or gross national product. The needs of India continue to be immense, and sometimes, when we look at the gloomy picture drawn by statistics of increasing population and food supplies diminished by drought, we may be tempted to despair. We should not forget, however, that India has put together in the last 15 years the important beginnings of a modern industrial structure, and has an expanded force of trained and educated manpower. Together with its potentially rich resources of land and water, India has a far better base for economic progress than existed 15 years ago. Much the same can be said with respect to Pakistan.

I want to deal at a later stage with our multilateral relations, but no discussion of Colombo Plan aid would be complete without a reference to the confidence we have in the future of the Asian Development Bank, at the inauguration of which, last year, Canada pledged an initial capital contribution of \$25 million. From its resources, we hope, will come great undertakings similar in scope and imagination to the Mekong development project (sponsored by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East), which serves Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, and which awaits only the resolution of the area's political differences to take a great step forward.

In 1958, Canada decided to broaden the scope of its contribution to international development by undertaking a new programme of assistance for the islands of the British West Indies. Canadians had long felt a special sense of attachment to the West Indies, based among other things on the traditional trade in salt fish from the Maritime Provinces for West Indian sugar and rum. The establishment in the West Indies of a federation embracing the various islands, and the prospect of this federation becoming a second independent Commonwealth nation in the Western Hemisphere, gave added impetus to Canadian interest in the region. Initially, Canada's