

as director of the newly organized soil conservation department. Offers have been made to India of a senior navigation and seamanship expert to serve as principal of the Technical and Engineering College in Bombay and of a vocational training expert to act as an adviser on vocational training to the Indian Ministry of Labour. Discussions are in progress about assistance we can give to the government of Pakistan in the setting up of an agricultural machinery maintenance depot in that country. Canadian agricultural engineers who will go out in connection with this project will train young Pakistanis who in time can take over the maintenance of agricultural machinery being provided to that country under the capital assistance programs.

In the course of advising the governments to which they have been loaned, Canadian technical experts sent out under the Colombo program may produce recommendations leading to a Canadian-assisted capital project in that country. For instance, recommendations of a Canadian fisheries expert sent to Ceylon a year ago have resulted in a project for the development of fisheries there which Canada is financing under the capital development part of the Colombo Plan. In a similar manner capital development projects in which Canada is assisting Colombo Plan countries in turn generate further requirements for technical assistance. For example, as a direct result of capital assistance Canada is giving to Pakistan, to build a cement plant, the government of Pakistan has asked that selected Pakistani workers and engineers be trained in the building and the operation of the plant as the project goes forward.

On the subject of housing, which was mentioned in the committee's recommendations last year, members may have noticed under Vote 88 that a substantial sum has been included to permit us to provide housing for our representatives abroad. Moreover, it may be recalled that our explanatory notes emphasized that priority in this matter would be given to our needs in South and Southeast Asia as your committee recommended. In Karachi the housing situation is extremely difficult: constant efforts are being made to find suitable rented accommodation, but with the over-crowded conditions prevailing there virtually none exists. We have also taken steps to be in a position to take advantage of the occasional offer for sale of suitable houses that appear on the market. Two proposals which would provide suitable living accommodation for Canadian personnel of both the Department of External Affairs and the Department of Trade and Commerce are now under active consideration. For New Delhi a proposal involving the purchase and renovation of a building in which might be constructed some half-dozen apartments for the housing of Canadian staff is also being considered; but it has not yet reached the recommendation stage.

We have asked this year for fairly heavy reappropriations of blocked currency in Vote 89 for capital developments. A substantial proportion of these are more in the nature of re-votes; for members will note from page 165 of the estimates that our estimated total expenditure under blocked currency for 1952-53 is some \$531,000 out of an appropriation of \$1,654,000. Last year, I am afraid, we were overly optimistic about the amount of progress we would make in our construction planning in Europe. The preparation and consideration of the plans for the office in The Hague, the office in Paris and the office and residence in Rome took much longer than was anticipated. It will not be until 1953-54 that the real work of each of these projects will start.

Members may be interested in the figures shown for the numbers of staff. You will note—on pages 161 and 164 of the estimates—that again this year we have reduced our continuing establishment of positions by the number which we estimate will probably be vacant because of staff turnover and delay in opening new posts. It may appear strange, for instance, that we are asking this year for 554 positions under departmental administration as opposed to 561 last year—a reduction of seven in a year when we are faced with a fairly