

Colombo Plan

I desire now to refer to another field in which we are engaged in an enterprise of international co-operation. I refer to the Colombo Plan.

Canada is now giving significant assistance every year to the Colombo Plan countries of South and South-East Asia. The Colombo Plan is a scheme under which some of the wealthier countries of the world are able to give very tangible evidence of their concern for the well-being of the peoples of less fortunate countries. Under this scheme, Canada, Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom are joined with the countries of the Colombo Plan area in seeking ways in which our economic resources and technical skills can be mobilized for the common good. The Colombo Plan provides us in Canada with a means of aiding the under-developed countries in South and South-East Asia in their unceasing struggle to raise standards of living and to seek a better way of life for their people. In this manner we can show that our humanitarian professions are matched by humanitarian deeds.

One of the features of the Colombo Plan in which, as a Canadian, I take pride, is that it was a concept initiated and brought about by the free association of nations in the Commonwealth. The Colombo Plan has the Commonwealth trademark on it, although of course it now extends beyond the Commonwealth area.

Our Colombo Plan contribution now involves Canadian participation in a number of capital development projects, of which electricity-generating stations and transmission lines and the atomic reactor for peaceful purposes being built for India are perhaps the most significant. It involves training over two hundred Asian students here in Canada every year and in sending a number of Canadian experts and engineering firms to work abroad. We have proposed that for 1958-59 Parliament should vote \$35 million toward these Canadian Colombo Plan operations. This is \$600,000 more than in the current financial year; and it is a recognition that Canadians in all walks of life support this national effort. Recently the Government announced grants to two countries outside the ambit of the Colombo Plan--Ghana and the new federation in the West Indies -- to enable these countries to train personnel for their administrative, educational and industrial activities. These initial grants may well be the prelude to larger grants to these new nations. Increased assistance for UNICEF -- the United Nations Children's Fund - is contemplated.

Another aspect of international assistance which is of great importance is relief to the victims of great disasters. This is particularly important when disaster strikes a country which lacks the financial resources or the physical resources to cope with an extensive emergency. You will recall that at the turn of the year there was a drastic and tragic flood in Ceylon