

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

Each country which participates in the Colombo Plan is contributing in its own way and in keeping with its resources to the common objective. It is difficult to make comparisons between the so-called "donor countries" because their assistance takes such a variety of forms, and costs vary from country to country. No detailed statistical comparisons will, therefore, be attempted here, but some selected figures are given as illustrations. It must also always be remembered that the largest contribution comes from the countries in which the various projects are located.

Up to the middle of 1961, the period covered by the latest report of the Consultative Committee, total contributions since the beginning of the Plan amounted to more than \$10 billion. The United States, with its very extensive programmes of loans, grants, technical assistance and foodstuffs, provided well over \$8 billion of this total. The United Kingdom contributed about \$512 million. Australian assistance was valued at about \$88 million.

From 1950 to mid-1961, over 19,000 trainees had been given training under the Technical Cooperation Scheme and 3,155 experts had been provided to countries in the area by members of the Colombo Plan. Here also the United States was the source of the greater part of the external assistance. Very considerable numbers of experts were provided by other donor countries, however. Australia provided 441, Japan 347, New Zealand 156 and the United Kingdom 446. These countries were also active in providing training places, with Australia taking 3,530 trainees, Japan 646, New Zealand 896, and the United Kingdom 3,880.

One significant feature of the Colombo Plan reports in recent years has been the degree to which countries within the area have been increasingly able to offer assistance, especially in the field of technical cooperation, to other Asian countries. India, for example, has taken more than 1,500 trainees from other Colombo Plan countries and made available 169 experts. Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines also figure in the list of donor countries.

The Colombo Plan is not, of course, the only channel of economic and technical assistance to South and South-East Asia. The United Nations and its Specialized Agencies are making very important contributions. For example, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has loaned more than \$1 billion to countries in the Colombo Plan area in the past ten years.