

supplement the United Nations Programme and to provide immediate assistance to an area where the needs are most urgent. Countries which have participated in the drawing up of the Colombo Report for Co-operative Economic Development of South and South-East Asia have realized that an effective programme to provide expert advice and assistance to these countries both by training and by lending trained manpower is essential if any large scale financial assistance which might be made available to them is to be used to advantage.

Progress has been made during the past six months in putting into practical effect plans for these ambitious programmes. The constitution of the Council, which is made up of representatives of all countries co-operating in the Colombo Programme and designed to supervise this technical assistance programme in South and South-East Asia, had been approved; and the first series of meetings was held during December to deal with specific requests for technical assistance from countries in the area. The actual administration of the programme will be carried out by a Bureau which is being established in Colombo*. The Canadian Government approved the constitution of the Council on November 10, 1950, and has designated Mr. Paul Sykes, Canadian Trade Commissioner in Colombo, as Canadian representative on the Council.

Activities Co-ordinated

Under the United Nations Expanded Programme, much has been accomplished to co-ordinate the technical assistance activities of the specialized agencies and organizations participating in the discharge of their responsibilities under the Programme. The United Nations, which itself is responsible for the more general aspects of the programme, has set up a Technical Assistance Administration to provide technical assistance through comprehensive exploratory surveys, technical advice, research and administrative services and training under Fellowships in Public Administration, Economic and Social Affairs. In September, Dr. H. L. Keenleyside, formerly Canadian Deputy Minister of Resources and Development, who, earlier in the year, had headed a United Nations Technical Assistance Mission to Bolivia, was appointed Director-General of the Administration.

The Canadian Government has recognized the importance of co-ordinating, insofar as practicable, the activities of these technical assistance programmes, both in the administration of the programmes and in the fields where technical assistance is being extended. It has also recognized the desirability of co-ordinating Canadian participation in these programmes in order that this participation might be as effective as possible.

A Technical Assistance Service has therefore been established to co-ordinate all Canadian activities with regard to technical assistance either with the United Nations or its Specialized Agencies, with the Bureau of the Co-operative Plan for Technical Assistance to South and South-East Asia, or in response to direct requests from foreign governments. This Technical Assistance Service, which is situated in the Department of Trade and Commerce, commenced its operation with the New Year. The Director, who reports to an inter-departmental group drawn from interested government departments, the chairman of which is an officer of the Department of External Affairs, is responsible for recruiting Canadian experts and advisers from the Civil Service, industry and universities as well as for making arrangements for the recep-

* During the interval between the approval of the plan in principle by the announcement of financial contributions from co-operating countries and the setting up of the Council, a preliminary survey of availabilities and requirements was undertaken, liaison was established with officials of the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, and details of the constitution of the Council and the Bureau were worked out by a standing Committee of the Commonwealth Consultative Committee which met in Colombo.