



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 105B

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1955.

It was announced today that the Canadian Government plans to ask Parliament to approve a contribution for the Colombo Plan in 1956-57 of \$34.4 million. This represents an increase of \$8 million over Canada's contribution in 1955-56.

At the meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee which was held recently in Singapore, Canada joined other member countries in unanimously approving an extension of the Plan until mid 1961, on the understanding that the future of the Plan will be re-examined again in 1959.

Part of the increased funds which Parliament will be asked to approve for 1956-57 will be used to cover the external costs which will fall due next year for the NRX atomic research reactor which Canada has agreed to provide to India under the Colombo Plan. Some of the increase will also be used to meet part of the additional dollar costs arising in connection with the Warsak multipurpose project in Pakistan. The remainder of the increase will be used, together with certain funds now available, to provide greater amounts of assistance to countries in South and Southeast Asia which have to date received only limited technical assistance from Canada.

The amount which Parliament will be asked to approve will also cover the regular allocations to India, Pakistan and Ceylon and a continuation of the technical assistance programme to the member countries of the area.