No. 58/45   THE COLOMBO PLAN: PROGRAMMES AND PROBLEMS

Statement by Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Chairman of
the Delegation of Canada, Second Session of the
Ministerial Meeting at Seattle, Washington, on
Tuesday, November 11, 1958.

We welcome this opportunity to discuss the operations
of the Colombo Plan and the programmes and problems with which
we are individually and collectively concerned. During the
years of its existence, the Colombo Plan has provided the
world with outstanding examples of the feasibility of co-
operative efforts by peoples of differing traditions and
divergent ways of life, and of the possibility of bringing
their efforts to a successful conclusion. It seems to me
that the Colombo Plan also has a particular significance in
that it embodies the concept of the interdependence of nations
and has done much to promote wider acceptance of this concept
throughout the world.

My strong impression is that there is an increasing
desire in those countries which have achieved a relatively
high standard of living, to help other countries to increase
their well-being. This, I venture to suggest, is one of the
most remarkable developments in international relations of
the past decade or so. There is clearly a genuine feeling
on the part of both individuals and governments in the more
developed countries that the wide differences in standards
of living that confront us represent not merely an economic
problem, but also a human problem.

The emphasis in our efforts through the Colombo Plan
is on the concept of co-operation, because it forms the only
basis for success in our endeavours. As we share common
efforts and common burdens, however, we also, I suggest,
share common benefits. I am sure that those of us who have
been able to supply technical personnel, value the experience
that our engineering contractors and our other experts have
gained at first hand by their participation in South and
South-East Asia in new projects and programmes in a wide