

other equipment for the agricultural development project in Gal Oya. In addition Canada will assist in financing the local costs at the fisheries harbour (Canada has already made available considerable aid to a pilot fisheries project in Ceylon) and the local costs of rural road construction through the provision of Canadian flour, which will be sold in Ceylon for rupees, thereby creating counterpart funds for development purposes. Negotiations are continuing with the Governments of India, Pakistan, and Ceylon on further projects for Canadian capital aid.

Technical assistance under the Plan is co-ordinated through the Council for Technical Co-operation, which meets regularly at Colombo and on which all member governments are represented. In carrying out the Canadian programme, the Department of External Affairs co-operates with the Department of Trade and Commerce, whose Technical Co-operation Division is in charge of administration. From the Plan's inception in 1950 to December 15, 1954, 55 Canadian experts have been placed in the area and a wide variety of training facilities in Canada has been arranged for over 240 scholars and fellows from a number of countries in the area. During the past year technical assistance in the form of equipment was provided for the Agricultural Faculty of the University of Ceylon, a woodworking shop at the Galle Technical School in Ceylon, and tractor training schools in Pakistan, among others. Additional proposals received during the year are under consideration.

The Consultative Committee on Co-operative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia met at Ottawa in October, preceded by a preparatory meeting of officials in September. Representatives from all participating countries were in attendance, and Thailand and the Philippines, which had previously sent observers, were admitted, along with Japan, as full members of the Committee. During this conference there was a useful exchange of views concerning the problems of economic development in South and Southeast Asia. At the conclusion a report was issued which recorded the progress made during the past year and also surveyed the formidable tasks that still lay ahead.

5. Commercial Relations with Japan

An Agreement on Commerce between Canada and Japan was concluded in 1954. (For details see Chapter VII, section 3.)

In 1953 the GATT Contracting Parties invited Japan to participate in their work, pending the time when it could undertake tariff negotiations as required for formal accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. They also opened for signature a declaration under which commercial relations between Japan and signatory countries could temporarily be governed by provisions of the GATT. This declaration was accepted by Canada following the ratification by Japan and Canada of the Agreement on Commerce.

6. Other Trade Talks

At the request of the Government of Czechoslovakia under Article XXII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, discussions took place at Ottawa during May and June between Czechoslovak and Canadian officials. The principal subject was the special valuation procedures