

enlarged to include Japan, which had not previously been associated with the Plan, and Thailand and the Philippines, which had been represented by observers at previous meetings and which had sent observers to the Ottawa meetings. The new members were cordially welcomed by the older members who were glad to have their circle enlarged to include all the countries of South and South-East Asia (the area which the Plan is designed to serve) and Japan, an important Asian country which already has economic relations with the countries of the Colombo Plan area and which should be able to make a useful contribution to their economic development.

Membership Expands

While the Colombo Plan was originally a Commonwealth response to the economic development needs of South and South-East Asia and while the only governments which contributed data for the Plan as it was drawn up in 1950 were the governments of the Commonwealth countries of South and South-East Asia and of the United Kingdom territories in that area, it was recognized from the beginning that other countries of the area, and some countries outside it which were interested in helping to develop it, would be welcome as members. It was on this basis that Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal and Viet-Nam, on the one hand, and the United States, on the other, had previously joined the Plan. There were therefore solid precedents for the expansion which took place during the Ottawa meetings.

The United States has been a full member of the Consultative Committee since 1951; its contributions to economic development in South and South-East Asia have regularly been taken into account by the Committee in assessing the progress being made under the Plan, and its representatives have consistently played a constructive part in the deliberations of the Committee. This year the United States sent a strong delegation to all of the meetings, and Director of the Foreign Operations Administration, Mr. Harold Stassen, attended for the last few days.

The true spirit of the Colombo Plan was especially in evidence at the farewell dinner which the Prime Minister held for all delegates at the Country Club. A most friendly atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening, and both the Prime Minister, who spoke informally at the conclusion of the dinner, and Mr. Deshmukh of India, who was chosen to reply, aptly expressed the cordial feelings of the delegates.

The Annual Report

In the report of the conference the delegates expressed in more formal terms their current assessment of the Colombo Plan and the progress which is being made under it. The report,* which has been released in the capitals of several of the Colombo Plan countries, contains much valuable information and statistical data on economic trends in the countries of South-East Asia and in the area as a whole. It also describes in specific terms the development programmes in each of the countries, the progress made in implementing these plans, and the contributions of member countries. The concluding chapter, en-

* "The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South East Asia - Third Annual Report of the Consultative Committee - Ottawa, October, 1954" (The Queen's Printer, Ottawa - Price 50¢).