

is essential that the funds voted annually by parliament should be available beyond the normal period of the fiscal year in which they are voted. It is for this reason that the final supplementary estimates this year will contain a vote for Colombo Plan aid so worded as to provide for the setting up of a special account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund which will remain available to cover expenses for projects which may take two years or more to complete. With the details of the vote on page 176 of the estimates there is a mention of this intention.

As far as strengthening our official representation in South and Southeast Asia, I can tell the committee little that is specific at this time. I am sure the members of the committee appreciate that an expansion of Canadian representation requires discussions with other governments, and that until those discussions have been completed it is not possible to make public announcements. But I can say this. Preliminary planning has been undertaken for the opening of two posts in that area. You may have noted from the explanatory material given to you, and also from the figure given on page 169 of the estimates, that a provision of money for new missions not mentioned by name has been made. Our intentions are therefore in the open; even though the actual locations are not. It is probable that further information can be made available before the committee has concluded its consideration of the estimates.

In some cases of course the necessary formalities have been completed and the opening of new offices has already been announced. You will find provision in the estimates, by name, for two new missions in Latin America—in Uruguay and Colombia—and for an embassy in Venezuela where previously there was a consulate-general. Similarly, provision is made for a small diplomatic office in Vienna and for a consulate-general in Los Angeles. I should also mention that certain of our posts have undergone a change in status or were open for only part of the present fiscal year, which means that additional funds will be needed for their operation during the coming fiscal year. In addition to the embassy in Venezuela to which I have already referred, these changed status posts include Finland, Portugal and our delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Then of course there is to be an embassy in Spain as was announced on February 21. This expansion in the operations of the department which has had to be deferred until our position as regards trained staff had undergone some improvement accounts for the major part of the increase in our operating expenses.

Having spoken about new missions, by way of enlarging on the more limited question of representation in Southeast Asia, let me return for a few moments to that area to make a few general comments on what is being done under the Colombo Plan. During the first part of our participation in technical assistance programs for South and Southeast Asia the Canadian contribution was confined mainly to making available training facilities in Canada for trainees nominated by the United Nations and by the Asian governments. It is now possible to report, however, that very specific progress has been made in the recruiting of Canadian technical experts to serve in the Asian countries. The services which these Canadian experts are providing are not restricted to advisory functions. The type of expert being recruited combines the giving of his expert advice to the recipient government with the training of people in the country who can carry on with the development projects or with the local training programs long after the expert has returned to Canada.

For example, we have lent to the government of Ceylon under the Colombo program a senior professor of agriculture who will organize the newly established Department of Agriculture at the University of Ceylon. A soil conservation expert from Western Canada has also gone to that country