



Burmese peasants in rice fields.

There will also be observers representing the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, two agencies of the United Nations which have for many years done important work in the economic development field in South and South-East Asia, and whose representatives regularly attend the meetings of the Consultative Committee. The Director of the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Cooperation and the Colombo Plan Information Officer will attend from Colombo.

What has happened during the past few years to bring all these people to Ottawa in this month of October 1954? What is their purpose in meeting here? What business do they conduct both at their annual meetings and during the interval between meetings? What is the Consultative Committee and what is the real nature of the Colombo Plan? The purpose of this article is to provide reasonably comprehensive answers to these questions for those who are interested in the meetings and in the work of the Plan. Information regarding what has been accomplished under the Plan must, in the main, be sought elsewhere.*

* An article on "Canada and the Colombo Plan" by Nick Cavell will appear in the autumn issue of the *Queen's Quarterly* and may be obtained in reprint from the Department of External Affairs. (The *Queen's Quarterly* will also contain two valuable analytical articles on the Colombo Plan.) Less up-to-date but otherwise comprehensive information on Canada's part in the Plan was published in the April and May 1953 issues of *External Affairs Bulletin*. The most comprehensive summary of progress under the Plan, including information about what is being done by all the member countries, is contained in the Annual Report of the Consultative Committee published last October following the 1953 meeting at New Delhi. The 1954 report will be published shortly after the Ottawa meetings and will be obtainable from the Department of External Affairs. The Department of External Affairs has prepared an extensive bibliography of information material on the Colombo Plan obtainable both from Canadian sources and from sources in other Colombo Plan countries. The Ottawa Information Offices of some of these countries can provide some material of this kind.