

GOVERNMENT



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PRESS RELEASE

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BEFORE JANUARY 14, 1960

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCEPT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

JANUARY 14, 1960 MARKS THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCEPT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN. MEETING IN COLOMBO ON JANUARY 14, 1950, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CANADA AND A NUMBER OF OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AGREED THAT THE RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONS MIGHT BE COMBINED TO FURTHER, BY CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA. WITHIN THE YEAR A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS HAD BEEN FORMED AND PLANS DRAWN UP FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

IN THE TEN YEARS SINCE THIS UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP WAS BEGUN, THE COLOMBO PLAN HAS EXPANDED WELL BEYOND THE ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP OF SEVEN COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS, UNTIL IT NOW INCLUDES ALL THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA, AS WELL AS CANADA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN. THE ORIGINAL SIX-YEAR TERM OF THE COLOMBO PLAN HAS TWICE BEEN EXTENDED. AT ITS NOVEMBER 1959 MEETING IN INDONESIA, THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE COLOMBO PLAN SHOULD NOW RUN UNTIL 1966 AND THAT A FURTHER RENEWAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN 1964.

IN KEEPING WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE COLOMBO PLAN, CANADA HAS PROVIDED CAPITAL GRANTS TO ASSIST IN MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF TRAINING