

sistance is the increasing degree to which countries within the area are now able to provide technical assistance to other Colombo Plan countries. There are now nine countries in South and Southeast Asia listed among the donors. The Committee recommended that surveys might be undertaken by each individual country in the area of its technical assistance requirements for its development programme and that the results of such surveys might be reported to the next Consultative Committee meeting.

The Committee had before it a report on training facilities within the area that showed that there had been a considerable development of technical training institutions and that more use could be made of these institutions. While the importance of training outside the area was recognized, emphasis was placed on further use by countries in the region of specialized facilities available in the area. A number of suggestions on the further improvement and more extensive use of these facilities were commended to member governments for their consideration.

When it considered the task ahead, the Consultative Committee agreed that much remained to be done before all the members of the Colombo Plan could approach a satisfactory rate of growth that could be sustained without large-scale external assistance. It was agreed that the developing countries themselves, in co-operation with members of the Colombo Plan outside the area, would have to devote continuing vigorous attention to the problems standing in the way of economic development. In particular, as the communique issued at the end of the meeting points out, "increased attention should be given to the impact of population growth on economic development".

The Committee particularly emphasized the importance of creating in each country an environment that would encourage long-term economic growth, conditions that would enable private and public undertakings to flourish, attract outside skills and capital, encourage the adoption of new techniques and win wholehearted public support.