

Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the United Kingdom, stressed the urgency of the need for technical assistance to the countries of South and South-East Asia. This meeting achieved substantial results and in the words of Mr. Layhew, the Minister of Fisheries, who represented Canada,

"It was decided to inaugurate, without delay, a Commonwealth Technical Assistance Scheme for the area to organize technical assistance on a bi-lateral basis between governments. The aggregate of assistance involved would be eight million pounds sterling for a period of three years."

As its contribution to this technical assistance scheme, which is now known as the Colombo Programme for Technical Co-operation in South and South-East Asia, the Canadian Government decided to make available a grant of \$400,000 for the first year of the three year period.

The Colombo Programme for Technical Co-operation is an integral part of the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia. It is at the same time supplementary to the activities under the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme in the area. Because of the magnitude of the problems with which they were confronted upon attaining independence, the Governments of India and Pakistan, in particular, considered that they could absorb capital and technical assistance over and above that being provided by the United States Point Four Programme, the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

It is hoped that all countries of the area will eventually co-operate in both the Programme for Technical Co-operation and the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia. All interested Governments in this region have been invited to send representatives to the Council for Technical Co-operation, which sits in Colombo, Ceylon, and to join this body if they wish to take part in the scheme.

Constitution of the Council for Technical Co-operation

The Constitution of the Council states in its preamble that there is

"need for fullest co-operation with United Nations and other agencies providing technical assistance in the area, with a view to encouraging and speeding the provision of technical assistance from all sources ...".

In keeping with this objective, Canada has emphasized that the activities of the Programme for Technical Co-operation in South and South-East Asia should be co-ordinated as much as possible with those of the United Nations Expanded Technical Assistance Programme.

The Council, consisting of one representative of each co-operating government, may at any time admit to its membership a government which applies to co-operate under the scheme. It is responsible for organizing the provision of technical assistance in the following forms:

- (a) training of personnel from countries in the area in countries where suitable instruction is available,