

One major announcement by Canada was that our annual Colombo Plan contribution would be increased by almost fifty per cent. The Colombo Plan represents perhaps one of the best examples of the way in which a Commonwealth initiative can be expanded to include other countries in the overall interest of the free world. Although the Colombo Plan originated eight years ago in a meeting of Commonwealth foreign ministers, the United States is now an important participant in this programme of aid to South-East Asia and, indeed, the annual meeting of the Plan's Committee is scheduled for Seattle next month.

Increased assistance will be provided for countries outside the Colombo Plan area - such countries as Ghana and the Federation of the West Indies.

In addition to suggestions that more attention should be paid to the possibility of international commodity agreements among producers and consumers to ensure a steady and profitable market for primary products, the problem of surplus food production was also a subject of careful examination. We made it plain at Montreal that Canada, while not interfering with commercial markets, would make determined efforts to use our food products to help the less well developed countries.

Finally, we spent considerable time in discussing arrangements for a programme of exchange scholarships and fellowships among Commonwealth countries. Behind this proposal is the recognition that political and business relationships are influenced more than we realize by considerations directly related to the individual.

From the effective operation of this programme there can emerge a greatly enhanced measure of mutual confidence, respect and appreciation for one another and a predisposition towards agreement. The fostering of these qualities will, I am confident, have a far-reaching effect in drawing people of diverse areas of the world closer together. This emphasis on scholarships and fellowships to be used predominantly in the fields of humanities and social sciences is perhaps, at first glance, remote from the subject matter of the meeting as indicated by its designation as a trade and economic conference. But there is a vital relationship between the two.

One rainy Sunday morning a father was reading his newspaper when his small child began worrying him for something to do because he could not play outdoors. The father, noticing a full page map of the world in his paper, ripped out the page and cut it into small pieces hoping that the remainder of the morning would be occupied for his son. Ten minutes later the child was back at his father's side again asking for another game. "How did you manage to put all those pieces together so