

that figured prominently in the discussion at this year's Colombo Plan meeting was the very large increase in population. In 1950, when the Colombo Plan was first conceived, the population of South and Southeast Asia was estimated to be a little over 600 million. The results of censuses carried out in a number of member countries in the past year indicate that the population is probably now at least 750 million. The result of this unexpectedly rapid rate of population growth is that the increase in *per capita* income in the area has not kept pace with the growth of production.

### **Market Problems**

Other difficulties that have been encountered by the countries of South and South east Asia over the past ten years include fluctuations in world market prices of the principal export commodities, insecurity and civil strife in some countries, inflationary pressures and shortages of skilled personnel in many countries. The problem of markets and prices for the export commodities of Colombo Plan countries received more than usual attention at this meeting of the Consultative Committee. A number of countries in the region are heavily dependent on the export of one or two basic commodities, and their economies are, therefore, extremely vulnerable to changes in the world market price for those commodities. In addition, representatives of these countries pointed out to the Consultative Committee that over the past decade the prices of their exports have not risen in proportion to the general rise in the price of other goods they must import and, therefore, the terms of trade for the Southeast Asian countries have generally remained adverse.

Reviewing the co-operation between the donor members of the Colombo Plan and the recipients, the Consultative Committee noted that, since the beginning of the Colombo Plan, the financial and other assistance made available by members outside the area to countries in South and Southeast Asia totalled approximately \$10 billion. The value of aid received in 1960-61 was more than \$1,500 million. These totals do not include the contribution in capital, experience or skills provided by private enterprise or the impressive contributions made by international institutions such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Finance Corporation, the International Development Association and the United Nations agencies concerned with technical assistance. The Canadian contribution over the past ten years totals \$332 million.

### **Technical Co-operation**

At this meeting of the Consultative Committee special attention was given to technical co-operation between the members of the Colombo Plan. It was reported to the Committee that since 1950 training has been given under Colombo Plan arrangements to over 31,000 trainees and that the services of over 14,000 experts have been provided to countries in the area by member countries and by international agencies. An interesting feature of the report on technical as-