

GOVERNMENT



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PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that an exchange of notes has been signed in Colombo, Ceylon, by Mr. James Hurley, the Canadian High Commissioner in Ceylon, and a representative of the Ceylon Government, which will bring into effect the programme of aid which Canada will undertake in Ceylon under the Colombo Plan in 1955-56. The total of this year's aid, as in past years, is approximately \$2 million. Of this amount, assistance in the form of capital equipment or services will make up about \$1,221,000. The remainder of the programme consists of the supply of flour from Canada to Ceylon which will be sold locally for Ceylon rupees which will be used to finance local costs of agreed developmental projects.

As part of this year's programme, further assistance will be provided for the Fisheries Project to which Canada has made a significant contribution in the past through the provision of both equipment and technical experts. Additional aid will also be made available for the development of the Colombo Port and the construction and equipping of a school of Practical Technology. Canada has also agreed to supply three more diesel locomotives for the Ceylon Railways, making a total of eight diesel locomotives supplied by Canada to Ceylon under the Colombo Plan.

It was also agreed that Canada would undertake to finance an aerial survey in Ceylon which is vitally required by Ceylon for its resettlement programme and for the planning generally of the Island's economic development.

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