



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO 82

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1956.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT, SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, A CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION OF AN AMOUNT OF \$34,400,000 WILL BE MADE IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1957-58 TO ASSIST COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA PARTICIPATING IN THE COLOMBO PLAN. A SIMILAR AMOUNT FOR ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE DURING THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR, 1956-57. THIS WILL MEAN THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE COLOMBO PLAN IN 1950 CANADA WILL HAVE CONTRIBUTED BY MARCH 31, 1958 A TOTAL OF \$198,800,000 TO THE COLOMBO PLAN.

AS IN THE PAST, CANADA'S 1957-58 CONTRIBUTION WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN INDIA, PAKISTAN AND CEYLON. PART OF THE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION WILL ALSO BE DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION TO THE CAPITAL AID PROVIDED, A PERCENTAGE OF THE MONEY WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME.

CANADIAN ASSISTANCE UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN HAS BEEN TO A LARGE EXTENT CONCENTRATED ON POWER DEVELOPMENTS, ON BUILDING UP TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS AND ON SURVEYS OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

THE COLOMBO PLAN ORIGINATED AT A MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS IN JANUARY 1950 AT COLOMBO, CEYLON. FROM THE FIRST, HOWEVER, IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH WOULD PARTICIPATE. TODAY, MEMBERSHIP IN THE COLOMBO PLAN CONSISTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES-AUSTRALIA, CANADA, CEYLON, INDIA, NEW ZEALAND, PAKISTAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM (TOGETHER WITH MALAYA, BRITISH BORNEO AND SINGAPORE) - AND ALSO BURMA, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, LAOS, NEPAL, THE PHILLIPINES, THAILAND, THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM.