

The Committee also reaffirmed the conception of third-country technical co-operation, under which a developed country would pay for the training of people in another developing country.

It also emphasized the need for a wider dissemination of information on achievements in development by the member countries, and suggested that Colombo Plan Day (July 1) should be observed more widely.

The Committee decided to reconstitute the Drafting Committee into a "Committee on Economic Co-operation" to review, in the light of material submitted by member countries, the entire range of economic development. This had not been possible in the Technical Co-operation Committee or in the old, more narrowly constituted Drafting Committee.

Chairman's Closing Remarks

Winding up the deliberations, the Conference chairman, Mr. M. M. Ahmad, said that the Plan's annual report showed that the uphill task of economic development facing the region was at a very critical stage. The optimism and hope which characterized the last decade was intermingled with many uncertainties and difficulties.

He said that there was widespread feeling among the delegates that the terms of foreign assistance should be radically improved — otherwise, aid would create more problems than it attempted to solve.

The importance of agriculture, as the most vital sector in the development process, was acclaimed by almost all delegations and an assurance was extended to support, on a high-priority basis, programmes in this particular sector. In keeping with this, agriculture was selected as the special topic for the eighteenth Consultative Committee meeting, to be held next year in Rangoon.