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IN HOUSE OF COMMONS, TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 1953.

The Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, today tabled in the House of Commons the Progress Report on the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia, prepared by the Consultative Committee at its Fifth Meeting which was held in New Delhi, India, in October. This report is also being made public today in the capitals of most Colombo Plan countries.

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. James Sinclair, headed the Canadian Delegation to the New Delhi meeting. On the invitation of the Canadian Government, extended by Mr. Sinclair, the Committee decided to hold its next meeting in Ottawa. This meeting will take place probably in the autumn of 1954.

The Report tabled today reviews the substantial achievements that have been made in the co-operative effort to implement the economic development programmes of the countries in the Area, as well as the difficulties that have been encountered. It indicates a continuing need for the provision of external assistance to supplement the efforts which the South Asian countries are themselves making to better the lot of their peoples.

Note to Editors: You will find attached a press communique issued at the close of the New Delhi meeting which will provide you with a detailed summary of the Report.
