



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL 1958-59

THE 1958-59 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA WAS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO ON OCTOBER 15.

THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME IS ONE PART OF THE COLOMBO PLAN, WHICH OWES ITS ORIGIN TO A MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS IN COLOMBO IN JANUARY, 1950. CANADA, WHICH HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COLOMBO PLAN SINCE 1950, RECENTLY INCREASED HER ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FOR COLOMBO PLAN AID TO \$50 MILLION, BRINGING THE TOTAL OF CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES TO MORE THAN \$351 MILLION. THE COLOMBO PLAN INCLUDES BOTH TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION (FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP AND EXPERT PROGRAMMES) AND CAPITAL AID (LARGE SCALE PROJECTS).

AMONG OTHER FACTS, THE REPORT EMPHASIZES THAT THE VOLUME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME REACHED ITS HIGHEST ANNUAL LEVEL DURING THE YEAR 1958-59, WHEN 1,717 NEW TRAINING PLACES WERE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALL THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COLOMBO PLAN. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 165 PLACES OVER LAST YEAR. THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME BY ALL COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES DURING 1958-59 WAS ABOUT 8.42 MILLION DOLLARS, COMPARED TO 7.83 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1957-58.