

progress had been achieved in the countries of the Colombo Plan area, performance could and should be improved. It was recognized that stable internal financial conditions, appropriate price, investment and commercial policies, as well as effective administration, were key elements in enabling the countries of the region to obtain maximum benefit from the resources available to them.

### **Trade and Tourism**

Though the need for increased export earnings was generally recognized, these needs have not in many cases been effectively met. Developing countries need the broadest possible market opportunities, as well as appropriate internal policies to expand export earnings. In fact, limitations on trade opportunities for developing countries through artificial restraints in importing countries such as high tariffs, import quotas and high internal taxes restrict economic growth opportunities in the developing countries; the Committee recognized that developed countries had a role to play by reducing these restraints. It was suggested that the developing countries themselves, as part of general effort towards trade expansion and the improvement of export earnings, should explore possibilities of expanding trade with their neighbours. The experience of certain European countries shows clearly the very considerable improvement in a country's foreign-exchange position that can result from increased tourist receipts. It was suggested that countries in the Colombo Plan region should approach the fostering of their tourist industries more aggressively.

The idea of technical assistance under the Colombo Plan has won a ready and general acceptance. As countries reach a higher level of development, they require different and more sophisticated forms of technical assistance; the Committee recognized that a measure of flexibility was, therefore, necessary in the administration of technical co-operation programmes. Expenditures on technical assistance during the year under review increased by about \$17 million, to a peak of \$118 million. At one time during the year ending June 30, 1963, some 6,000 men and women from South and Southeast Asia were undergoing training under the Colombo Plan. The Committee devoted special attention to the need to expand intra-regional technical-training facilities, and the Council for Technical Co-operation was invited to make an early appointment of an adviser to the Colombo Plan Bureau to facilitate such training. The Committee suggested that the governments of the region be asked to designate liaison officers with whom the adviser could correspond as a matter of urgency.

### **Topic of the Year**

Again there was a discussion of a topic of special interest to member governments — this year manpower planning for economic development. Papers submitted by member governments about their experience in this field were examined by a specially appointed sub-committee, which reported to the Consultative Committee. The report recognized that educated and trained manpower was