

Under the general heading of economic aid, three important decisions were reached and announced by the Canadian Government:

- (1) The decision to increase the annual contribution to the Colombo Plan programme from \$35,000,000 to \$50,000,000 annually, and to pledge such a contribution for a period of three years in advance;
- (2) The decision to establish a programme of technical assistance designed to benefit those countries of the Commonwealth which are not participating members of the Colombo Plan;
- (3) The decision in principle to establish a Commonwealth scholarship scheme at a total estimated cost of approximately \$1,000,000 per year. This programme was the subject of a Commonwealth Conference held at Oxford, England, in July of this year, at which the Canadian proposal for a Commonwealth scholarship plan was warmly received and approved. Measures are now being taken to complete the necessary administrative arrangements to receive the first intake of scholars under this plan in the fall of 1960.

In addition to these decisions reached at the Montreal Conference, the Government has recently approved a programme of assistance to The West Indies amounting to \$10,000,000 over a period of five years.

The atomic age is still a very new era of mankind -- less than two decades -- but even so it has brought perils as well as blessings. We may look to nuclear fission as the most powerful source of energy with the exception of solar energy. But we must be vigilant that these mighty powers are properly used for the benefit of men, women, and children. As we all know there are dangers in the radio-activity which, unless checked, could pollute our atmosphere to the point that lives are threatened and future generations born maimed, twisted or deformed.

Our foreign policy will always seek the peaceful uses of the atom. We stand against the testing of nuclear bombs, and we have made our position known at the United Nations.

We have gone further than that. Before the United Nations, Canada has taken the initiative in proposing a world-wide study of atomic radiation. From the start of the current session, our delegates have been busy meeting day and night with delegates of other countries, to line up the support for