

of the Colombo Plan Information Unit, both of whom have their headquarters in Colombo, were present throughout the conference. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East were represented by observers, and the Chairman of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board attended some of the meetings.

Delegates to the preliminary meeting of officials began arriving in Ottawa toward the end of the week of September 13. They quickly became at home in their new surroundings and Ottawa citizens soon became used to seeing friends from the four corners of the world moving casually through the shopping districts or walking to and from the meetings on Parliament Hill. The conference was held in the Railway Committee Room. Mr. K. W. Taylor, Deputy Minister of Finance and leader of the Canadian delegation to the official meetings, was elected Chairman at the first session. On the afternoon of the first day Mr. Nik Cavell formally opened the Colombo Plan Exhibition, prepared by the Exhibition Commission of the Department of Trade and Commerce, which had been set up in the west lobby of the Centre Block. During the ensuing three weeks a large number of visitors, including school children, saw this exhibition. It graphically depicted the growth and operation of the Colombo Plan in the countries of South and South-East Asia.

### Preparation of Draft Report

The main task of the officials was to prepare for the consideration of Ministers a draft report reviewing progress under the Colombo Plan and assessing future prospects. Although the Consultative Committee had first met in 1950 and several Asian countries had by that time made some progress in economic development, the early meetings were organizational, and it was not until June 1951, that the Plan formally commenced. It was envisaged as covering a six-year period running to June 1957. When the Ottawa meetings began two annual reports had already been produced covering the first two years of the Plan. The task of the Ottawa meetings was to review progress over the three-year period from June 1951, to June 1954, with the main emphasis on what had been achieved since the 1953 report was drawn up.

After holding several plenary sessions the officials continued their work in subcommittees set up to work on separate chapters of the draft report. At the same time a drafting committee was appointed to take in hand the draw-

- India: Hon. C. D. Deshmukh, Minister of Finance
- Indonesia: H.E. Dr. Sunario, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Japan: H.E. K. Matsudaira, Ambassador of Japan in Canada
- Laos: H.E. Ourot R. Souvannavong, Minister of Laos to the United States
- Nepal: Major-General Maahabir Rana, Minister of Planning, Development, Industry and Commerce
- New Zealand: H.E. T. C. A. Hislop, High Commissioner for New Zealand in Canada
- Pakistan: Hon. Chaudri Mohammed Ali, Minister of Finance
- The Philippines: Congressman Ferdinand E. Marcos
- Thailand: H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakan
- The United Kingdom: The Most Honourable the Marquess of Reading
- Dato Nik Ahmed Kamil, Member for Local Government, Housing and Town Planning, Federation of Malaya (Ministerial Representative for the United Kingdom Territories in South East Asia)
- Hon. C. C. Tan, Government of Singapore (Ministerial Representative for the United Kingdom Territories in South East Asia)
- The United States: Hon. Samuel C. Waugh, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs
- Viet-Nam: H.E. Tran Van Chuong, Ambassador of Viet-Nam to the United States