

The technical assistance side of the Colombo Plan, under which the services of experts, training facilities for students and special equipment are provided, is called the Colombo Plan Technical Cooperation Scheme. There is a Council consisting of representatives of member governments which meets regularly in Colombo to review the operation of this Scheme and to consider ways of meeting any problems that arise in technical assistance. The Council is also concerned with disseminating information about the Colombo Plan.

The only permanent staff associated with the Colombo Plan is a small Bureau in Colombo which services the Council on Technical Cooperation and provides information material on the Plan.

The 1950 report on the Colombo Plan projected a programme of economic development covering a six-year period, i.e. from July 1951 to July 1957. The participating countries subsequently extended this period, and in 1959 agreed on a further extension. At present, therefore, the Colombo Plan is scheduled to continue to 1966, with the understanding that its future will again be reconsidered before the end of that period.

CANADA'S ROLE IN THE COLOMBO PLAN

Appropriations and Procedures—In the ten years from the beginning of the Colombo Plan to the end of 1960, the Canadian Parliament appropriated a total of \$332 million for Canadian assistance to the Asian members of the Plan. The first appropriation was \$400 thousand in the fiscal year 1950-51, primarily for participation in the Technical Cooperation Scheme: since that time, the annual contribution rose to \$25.4 million in 1951-52, to \$34 million in 1956-57, and to \$50 million in 1959-60.

In the course of contributing to the Plan as a whole, Canadian aid has taken four chief forms: capital projects, industrial commodities, foodstuffs and technical assistance. All Canadian assistance under the Colombo Plan has so far been in the form of grants requiring no repayment, although in addition to the Colombo Plan programme, loans have been made to some countries in the area. Each year, when Parliament passes the Colombo Plan appropriation, the Governments of the Asian countries concerned are informed of the amount of funds available and invited to suggest which particular development needs Canada might help to meet.