

of the resources, both internal and external, needed to achieve the goals set by the Plan. This estimate could not, of course take account of subsequent changes affecting the scope and cost of individual programmes nor could it take account of the needs of countries not yet members of the Plan.

Economic development can proceed intelligently in an area as vast and complex as South and South-East Asia only if the needs and conditions are carefully studied and sensible priorities are established. The Commonwealth authors of the Plan sought from the start to draw up realistic assessments of the needs of the countries of the area and of the resources available to meet those needs. An important and integral part of this assessment was the development programmes which countries in the area were themselves drawing up or were likely to draw up if encouraged to do so.

The Governments of India, Pakistan and Ceylon, which had already made progress with development projects of their own, contributed such programmes when the Plan was first drawn up in October 1950, as did the Governments of the United Kingdom territories in the area, which also had development schemes under way. India subsequently produced a revised plan, drawn up after exhaustive consultation with state governments and interested public bodies, which is a most impressive document occupying two large volumes each the size of a Montreal telephone directory. Other governments, sometimes with the assistance of agencies such as the International Bank, are constantly striving to improve their programmes. A few, in which political conditions are unsettled, are faced with special problems and have therefore made less progress in their national planning than the others. But all are devoting increasing attention to this work.

Nature of Development Plans

The main emphasis in the development programmes of the countries of South and South-East Asia is on projects designed to increase agricultural production. These include large multi-purpose dams, small irrigation projects such as barrages, wells and pumps, community development schemes for villages, agricultural extension work, and schemes to provide farmers with seed, fertilizer, tools and so on. These are supplemented, in certain countries, by land reform measures designed to give farmers better landholding terms and better credit and marketing facilities while, it is hoped, at the same time reducing the small holdings which have plagued agriculture and introducing a measure of co-operative farming. Other development projects to which constant attention is being given include: improvement of transport and communications, increasing or initiating production of essential industrial products such as steel, cement, fertilizer, machine tools and locomotives, resettlement of homeless refugees, the provision of more widespread educational and medical facilities, and the broadening of community life in rural areas. Taken together, these objectives add up to an enlightened effort to give individuals a fuller life and to make national economies more diverse and productive.

Participation by Other Governments and Agencies

When the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers launched the Plan in 1950 they hoped that it would focus world attention on the needs of South and South-East Asia and thus encourage increasing co-operative economic devel-