

significance. They also considered means of extending the scope, increasing the volume and improving the operation of the technical assistance programmes.

The Report concludes its analysis of the task ahead with this summing up:

This outline is necessarily brief and such conclusions as it seeks to draw are inevitably provisional. If it seems to lay undue stress on problems and difficulties, this is because it is the business of the Consultative Committee to consider such matters, and by the sharing of experience to help towards finding solutions. This should not obscure the solid achievements recorded and the great efforts that have gone into securing them. The idea of co-operative effort, both within each country and between countries, is spreading ever more widely and deeply. The concept of international economic co-operation embodied in the Colombo Plan is of special significance in world history, and as the Plan enters its fifth year its members may take courage from all that has been accomplished and prepare themselves to meet the challenge of the task ahead.

Role of Atomic Energy*

At this year's meeting considerable attention was devoted to the important role which the development of atomic research and nuclear energy might play in the economic development of South and Southeast Asia. Mr. Pearson informed the Conference of the announcement made in September that the Indian and Canadian Governments were embarking on a project in which Canada would provide a high-powered and versatile research reactor to India under the Colombo Plan. This research reactor will be similar to the NRX reactor now in operation in Canada at Chalk River. Mr. Pearson indicated that the external costs of the proposed reactor would be financed by Canada in such a manner as not to reduce the amount of aid which otherwise would have been made available to other Colombo Plan countries, including India, for more conventional projects. For its part, the Indian authorities have agreed that they will make this reactor available for use by scientists from other countries including those in the Colombo Plan area.

During the Conference the United States Delegation suggested the establishment under the auspices of the Colombo Plan of a centre in South and Southeast Asia for nuclear research and training. The United States Government would be prepared to contribute substantially towards such a centre, which would supplement existing facilities for basic training in the various fields relating to the peaceful application of atomic energy. The United States delegation emphasized that their offer and the Canadian offer to India mutually complemented each other and multiplied the potential benefits to be derived from atomic energy research.

Future Contributions

All of the delegations represented at the Conference were unanimous in their desire to continue the Plan beyond June 30, 1957. Mr. Pearson and the Canadian delegation actively supported the extension of the Colombo Plan until 1961 with the understanding that the future of the Plan would be further examined in 1959.

* See also page 300.