

It was timely. What is going on in Asia now is of the greatest significance to the whole world. I may say that this trip has re-emphasized, if it were necessary, in my own mind, the strategic importance of Asia, South and Southeast, and I include Japan as well, by every test or concept . . . Everywhere I went I encountered the friendliest feelings expressed towards Canada. Canada, among the Western nations, is not suspect because the Eastern nations recognize that Canada has no axe to grind in her international relations or in the aid that she is endeavouring to extend to the less-developed countries of South and Southeast Asia. Canada's favoured position is something that is a matter of very great gratification, and inevitably at the same time, a very great challenge.



### **Colombo Plan Conference of National Information Officers**

The first Colombo Plan Conference of National Information Officers was held in Singapore on September 9 - 12, 1958, to review Colombo Plan publicity in the context of national development in the area. Seventeen member countries of the Colombo Plan participated in the Conference.

The discussions covered all aspects of information policy and work in the various countries represented. This exchange of views was useful for a better understanding of information possibilities and problems in the Colombo Plan countries. The Conference also adopted conclusions and recommendations which were placed before the Colombo Plan Council, and subsequently referred for consideration to the meeting of the Consultative Committee in Seattle, last October and November. Canada was represented at this Information Conference by Mr. E. R. Bellemare, Acting Head of the Information Division, Department of External Affairs; Mr. Charles Marshall, National Film Board Representative, Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, New Delhi; Mr. R. S. MacLean, Second Secretary; Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, New Delhi, and Mr. Barry Steers, Assistant Canadian Trade Commissioner, Singapore.

