



PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the annual meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee will be held in Ottawa from October 4 to October 9. This meeting, which will be attended by Cabinet Ministers or other representatives from fourteen Colombo Plan countries, will be preceded by a meeting of officials from these countries which will commence on September 20.

The Ottawa meeting of the Consultative Committee will be the first to take place in North America. Previous meetings were held in Australia, United Kingdom, Ceylon, Pakistan and India.

Both the official and the ministerial sessions will be held in the Parliament Buildings. The opening ministerial session, which will probably take place in the House of Commons chamber, will be open to the public. It will be addressed by Prime Minister St. Laurent and by leaders of some of the visiting delegations.

The members of the Consultative Committee are Australia, Burma, Canada, Cambodia, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Viet-Nam. Dependent territories of the United Kingdom in South-East Asia, viz., the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak also fall within the scope of the Colombo Plan. Thailand and the Philippines have sent observers to previous meetings of the Consultative Committee and have been invited to be represented at the Ottawa meetings.

Two agencies of the United Nations, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far-East, which have been closely associated with many Colombo Plan countries in the field of economic development, have sent observers to previous meetings of the Consultative Committee, and it is expected that they will be represented at the Ottawa meetings.

The Director of the Council for Technical Co-Operation, which is concerned with the technical assistance as distinct from the capital development aspect of the Colombo Plan, and the head of the Colombo Plan Information Unit, a new office which will shortly commence operation, are also expected to attend the Ottawa meetings.