

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ATTENDED BY MINISTERS FROM COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES, WAS TO EVALUATE THE PROGRESS WHICH COUNTRIES IN THE COLOMBO PLAN AREA HAVE MADE IN THE PAST YEAR IN CARRYING FORWARD THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND TO DEFINE IN GENERAL TERMS THE MAGNITUDE AND SCOPE OF THE TASK THAT LIES AHEAD.

AMONG THE DECISIONS WHICH THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REACHED, THREE ARE OF SIGNIFICANCE: (1) THE CONFERENCE DECIDED TO EXTEND THE COLOMBO PLAN FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS BEYOND 1961, AND TO CONSIDER AT ITS 1964 MEETING A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE PLAN AFTER 1966; (2) SINGAPORE WAS ADMITTED TO FULL MEMBERSHIP TO ACCORD WITH ITS NEW CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS; AND (3) THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLOMBO PLAN WILL BE CELEBRATED IN 1961.