



Richard Harrington

*Khyber Pass area of Pakistan where Canada and Pakistan cooperated in the construction of the Warsak Dam. Dormitories housing workers on the project are seen on the far side of the Kabul River and on the horizon to the left is a typical "pillbox" built by tribesmen in the area.*

*Member of the staff of Laval University Agricultural School at Ste. Anne de la Pocatière, Quebec, instructs a plowing class for Vietnamese agricultural students.*



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At Colombo in 1950, therefore, the representatives of newly-independent India, Pakistan and Ceylon, along with representatives of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom joined in recommending that:

*"Steps should be taken urgently to raise living standards and promote social welfare amongst the people of South and South-East Asia, thus enabling this area with its vast potential resources to play an increasing part in fostering well-being and furthering world prosperity."*

To pursue these objectives, a Commonwealth Consultative Committee, consisting of representatives of the countries mentioned above, was set up and held its first meeting in Sydney, Australia, in May, 1950. After a second meeting in London in September, 1950 the Committee produced a document entitled "The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia." This report surveyed the economic needs of countries in the area, the development programmes prepared by the Asian Governments and the extent to which assistance from outside would be needed to carry out these programmes. This report was, in effect, the original "Colombo Plan", although the term has subsequently come to mean the continuing programme of cooperation to promote economic development which followed from that first report.