

Essential to the programme is an increased supply of skilled manpower. The Governments therefore agreed at their Sydney meeting to provide finance up to £8 million (\$22.4 million) to set up a Council for Technical Co-operation, with headquarters at Colombo, which would intensify the training and exchange of skilled technicians and would co-operate with other agencies in this field, such as the technical aid programme of the United Nations and the point-four programme of the United States.

The report details the development already in progress and emphasizes that the new programmes cannot succeed without substantial new capital investment. It estimates that the programmes outlined would cost about £1,900 million sterling (equivalent to \$5.2 billion) over six years, of which £785 million (\$2.2 billion) would be found internally, while the balance of £1,085 million (\$3 billion) would have to come from outside,

Out of £1,085 million of foreign exchange needed to further the plan £246 million, or nearly one quarter, would be provided in the form of the release by the United Kingdom sterling balances owned by the countries concerned. The Commonwealth Governments are considering how far their countries can help financially in various other ways.

At the same time, says the report, the task of providing this financial support cannot be tackled by these Governments alone. If the programme is to be carried out in full, the co-operation of other Governments, of organizations such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and of private investors in other countries will be necessary.

Of expenditure planned under the programmes, 32 percent would be devoted to agriculture (including multi-purpose projects of flood control, irrigation and hydro-electric power), 34 percent to transport and communications, 6 percent to industry and mining and 18 percent to urgently needed improvements in educational and health facilities and other social projects.

Emphasizing the importance of getting the full programme under way urgently, the report concludes:

"Without external financial assistance something will be done. But it will be done at a much slower rate than would be possible if external finance were provided.

"And speed is necessary. In a world racked by schism and confusion it is doubtful whether free men can long afford to leave undeveloped and imprisoned in poverty the human resources of the countries of South and South-East Asia which could help so greatly, not only to restore the world's prosperity, but also to redress its confusion and enrich the lives of all men everywhere."