



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO 31

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1959

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A GROUP OF TWELVE OFFICERS OF THE PAKISTAN VILLAGE AID PROGRAM - AID STANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - ARE SPENDING A WEEK IN OTTAWA, FROM MAY 21 TO 27, FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION WITH CANADIAN EXPERTS IN HEALTH, WELFARE, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND CO-OPERATIVE SERVICES.

THE OTTAWA VISIT WAS ARRANGED JOINTLY BY THE CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS, AS PART OF A SIX MONTH PROGRAMME UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ADMINISTRATION. THE GROUP HAS ALREADY SPENT THREE WEEKS IN THE PHILIPPINES, STUDIED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FOR TWELVE WEEKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY; AND VISITED WASHINGTON AND OTHER CENTRES. AFTER LEAVING OTTAWA THE PAKISTANI OFFICIALS WILL SPEND A FEW DAYS IN NOVA SCOTIA, WHERE THEY WILL STUDY THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ANTIGONISH CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND OF THE EXTENSION DEPARTMENT OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY. FOLLOWING THEIR VISIT TO CANADA, THEY WILL SPEND SHORT PERIODS IN LOUISIANA AND PUERTO RICO BEFORE RETURNING HOME.

THE VILLAGE AID PROGRAM WAS COMMENCED IN 1952 TO RAISE INCOME AND LIVING STANDARDS IN THE PAKISTANI VILLAGES. THE OFFICERS COMING TO CANADA ARE FROM BOTH EAST AND WEST PAKISTAN. AT HOME THEY ARE CONCERNED WITH TEACHING MODERN TECHNIQUES OF FARMING, ISANITATION AND HEALTH, DEVELOPING COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION SERVICES AND GENERALLY WITH ANY MATTER WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND WELFARE OF THE VILLAGES FOR WHICH THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE.