

better mutual understanding of the conditions and methods governing the execution of such joint projects, but also, and more importantly, a deeper appreciation of each other's problems.

A substantial part of our allocation in the year 1957-58 was used to provide metals, such as aluminum and copper. This is not a new feature in our aid programme; we have provided metals in the past, but never in such large quantities. This shift in the content of our programme was made at the request of the countries themselves and reflects the changes in the needs of these countries brought about by the process of economic development. We have tried, and will continue to try, to make our programme as flexible as possible.

During the current fiscal year, Parliament voted an additional \$35 million for assistance under the Colombo Plan. Discussions with a number of member countries are quite far advanced and agreement on projects should be reached in the near future. This brings the total Canadian contribution to the Colombo Plan since its inception to over \$231 million. This figure does not include \$21.5 million in grants and \$35 million in loan funds made available to Colombo Plan participants for the purchase of commodities.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I assure you of the continued warm support which public opinion in Canada is giving to the policy of the Canadian Government to co-operate with the less-developed countries in their economic development programmes. We realize, of course, that most of the effort and most of the burden must be and is being shouldered by these countries themselves. On the other hand, we recognize that, when all has been done that can be done, there will remain a need for assistance from abroad, both by way of private investment and by means of resources made available by governments and international institutions. It was this recognition that led us jointly to bring the Colombo Plan into being some eight years ago. I think we can take pride in the results that we have achieved in close co-operation with one another. This co-operation will lead us to the objectives we all seek.

S/C