

*Supply—External Affairs*

industry. By the way, anyone interested in technical assistance in that country might be pleased to know that we had an outstanding Canadian on that work. The west coast members can be very proud of him indeed. Incidentally, in Ceylon some very good work was being done for agriculture under the FAO organization. I had occasion to meet the representatives of that organization who were working in Ceylon.

In India there are of course many other projects. Perhaps it is not useful for me to illustrate them further. In picking out these individual projects I want to make it clear that I merely picked them out by way of illustration and not in an attempt to assess the importance of one over another.

There is another problem running all through this. We must remember that these countries have their new-found independence that has created some problems for them. For instance, Pakistan was created seven years ago this summer. You must remember that there was no civil service there. When you start a government afresh with no civil service, no government machinery or anything, there are very great difficulties in internal organization of the governmental machinery that tend to make it difficult for such countries to develop projects for assistance. Then you must remember that there are other difficulties such as the appalling shortage of engineers and mechanics. It varies from country to country, but it is being corrected.

It is just a week or two since the representative who is responsible for the Colombo plan administration in Ceylon was here. These men are here from time to time. The Colombo plan is now an effectively working piece of machinery to provide economic aid and technical assistance. I for one am particularly pleased that this year the Colombo plan meeting will be held in Canada. That is most fortunate. Most of the time it has been held in the countries that are receiving assistance.

I hope that as the years go on and as the Colombo plan proves itself and the technical assistance machinery generally improves there will be such increases in aid given by Canada as are required.

I must also say there is another facet of this whole subject. These so-called underdeveloped countries have something real to contribute to us under this Colombo plan. I will not go into that feature of the subject tonight, but from their great culture and background there is much for us to learn.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What we have just listened to was a very interesting recital, and one that I am sure the hon. member can speak about with an authority that few in the committee possess. I was most interested in his development of the technological side of the question but, Mr. Chairman, it did not answer the simple question that I asked. It covered a wide sphere of discussion which was most interesting and most revealing, but it did not answer the question I posed to the minister. A number of western farm organizations, and I think some eastern ones, have been impressing upon the government the fact that in the expenditure of this \$25 million on the Colombo relief scheme the contribution should be made in the form of agricultural products, which could then be sold by the recipient countries and purchases of technological requirements made. What has the minister to say as to the practicality of the resolutions that these farm organizations have advanced as to means whereby part of our surpluses would not be given away as a gift, but would in fact provide a saleable opportunity in those countries of Asia and at the same time provide for the disposal of surpluses?

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Chairman, the answer to that question is that the Colombo plan provides for capital and technical assistance and not for consumer assistance, and the articles of the Colombo plan would have to be changed to take care of the question raised by my hon. friend. It is true, as I have said before, that wheat has been transferred to India under the Colombo plan. But that was to meet an emergency and at the request of the Indian government. Normally the receiving governments would not welcome assistance of that kind under the Colombo plan, even if the agreement signed to bring that plan into effect contained such a provision.

Item agreed to.

**The Deputy Chairman:** It seems to me we have been discussing item 101 as much as item 95. Shall item 101 carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

Item agreed to.

96. Contribution to the United Nations children's fund, \$500,000.

**Mr. Macdonnell:** Mr. Chairman, on this item 96 I would like to have the minister's comments in regard to the children's fund.

**Mr. Pearson:** I can only say that this is, I think, one of the most useful and successful of the United Nations humanitarian projects.