

# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA



NO 90

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1956.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT MORE THAN 35,000 MILES OF HITHERTO UNEXPLORED JUNGLE IN MALAYA ARE BEING SURVEYED FOR MINERAL DEPOSITS IN THE FIRST MAJOR COLOMBO PLAN PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY CANADA IN THAT COUNTRY. THE COST OF THE SURVEY IS EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT \$400,000 AND WILL BE ALMOST EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN CANADA AND MALAYA.

MALAYA IS ALREADY A MAJOR SOURCE OF THE WORLD'S TIN AND OFFICIALS HOPE THAT THIS AERIAL SEARCH WILL LEAD TO THE DISCOVERY OF IMPORTANT NEW DEPOSITS OF TIN AS WELL AS OF OTHER MINERALS, SUCH AS TUNGSTEN AND ILMENITE. THE SURVEY IS BEING MADE WITH AN AIRCRAFT SPECIALLY OUTFITTED AS A "FLYING LABORATORY". THE INSTRUMENTS INCLUDE AN AIRBORNE MAGNETOMETER, WHICH HAS HELPED TO UNCOVER MANY LARGE MINERAL DEPOSITS IN CANADA, AND AN AIRBORNE SCINTILLATION COUNTER, WHICH HAS BEEN WIDELY USED IN THE SEARCH FOR URANIUM IN THE CANADIAN SHIELD.

SPARTAN AIR SERVICES OF OTTAWA, WHICH IS MAKING THE SURVEY, HAS RECENTLY CARRIED ON SURVEYS FOR OIL IN INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINES, THE FORMER UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN. THE PROJECT MANAGER, CAPTAIN AND A SIX-MAN CREW ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF MALAYA.

DURING THE SURVEY OF MALAYA LARGE AREAS IN THE STATES OF KEDAH, PERAK AND SELANGOR, NEGRI SEMBILAN AND MALACCA, JOHORE, PAHANG AND TRENGGONU WILL BE EXPLORED. THE BASES FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT, COVERING THREE WESTERN AREAS, IS KUALA LUMPUR. AFTER THIS PHASE HAS BEEN COMPLETED THE CANADIAN TEAM WILL MOVE TO SINGAPORE WHICH WILL BE THE OPERATIONS BASE FOR THE SURVEY OF THREE EASTERN AREAS.

MUCH OF THE AREA TO BE EXPLORED IS REMOTE AND INACCESSIBLE VIRGIN JUNGLE WHICH COULD NOT BE SURVEYED ECONOMICALLY BY CONVENTIONAL GROUND RECONNAISSANCE. AERIAL PHOTOS WILL BE USED IN PREPARING THE SURVEY FLIGHT MAPS AND IN MAKING THE SURVEY THE PLANE WILL FLY AT A HEIGHT OF 500 FEET ABOVE THE JUNGLE. INTENSIVE GROUND STUDIES WILL THEN BE MADE OF THOSE AREAS WHICH THE AERIAL SURVEY INDICATES MAY CONTAIN IMPORTANT MINERAL DEPOSITS.

FLYING OPERATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE SURVEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN MAY 1957, IF THERE IS NO GREAT DELAY DUE TO MONSOONS. DATA REVEALED BY THE AERIAL SURVEY WILL BE COMPILED IN OTTAWA BY THE COMPANY AND THE REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED ABOUT MAY 1958.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MALAYA UP TO NOW HAS INCLUDED BOTH TRAINING IN CANADA FOR SEVEN TRAINEES, THREE OF WHOM ARE IN CANADA NOW, AND THE SENDING TO MALAYA OF FIFTEEN EXPERTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS. SEVERAL OF THESE EXPERTS ARE AT PRESENT IN KUALA LUMPUR.