

goods which the Asian countries must import. Even more serious are the difficulties in obtaining delivery of critically needed goods. Most regrettable, there has been a serious falling off in India's food supply owing to drought in some regions, floods in others, and locusts in still others. This has imposed a very real human and economic problem on India.

The Colombo Plan calls for a capital development programme in Commonwealth countries of South-East Asia totalling about \$5 billion over a six-year period starting this year. Of this \$5 billion it is expected that about \$2 billion will be raised internally and about \$3 billion will come from external sources. Private capital is one source, though in the present international situation it cannot be as important as it should be. We also hope that the International Bank will be another source for financing some of the larger projects. So far as government contributions are concerned, the United Kingdom has announced that its contribution over the six-year period will take the form of sterling balance releases, at a high and fixed rate, grants for colonial development, and loans floated in London, amounting to well over 300 million pounds or more than 900 million Canadian dollars. Australia has announced that it will provide 7 million pounds sterling, that is nearly 21 million Canadian dollars, in the first year; and that over the six-year period its contribution will be not less than 25 million pounds sterling, that is, nearly 75 million Canadian dollars.

The Canadian Government has been giving very serious consideration to the course of action which should be recommended to Parliament. We have been conscious that Canadians, as individuals - and this has been clearly reflected in the Press from one end of the country to the other - wish to contribute to the success of this Plan.

This desire of the people of Canada, to extend assistance, has also been clearly shown in the debate on the speech from the Throne. It was reflected by the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, (Mr. Dr w) when he expressed his confidence that members of the House would support all practical measures which will bring hope and encouragement to those who are in such great distress in so many parts of the world. It was reflected also in the remarks of the member for Rosetown-Biggart, (Mr. Coldwell) when he called the Colombo Plan the most imaginative ever adopted by the Commonwealth countries.

The Government, therefore, authorized Mr. David Johnson, our High Commissioner in Pakistan and our delegate to the recent meeting of the Consultative Committee, to state that the Canadian Government would ask Parliament to appropriate \$25 million as its contribution to the first year of the Plan, provided that it was clear that other contributing countries would be making appropriate contributions so that the broad objectives of the Colombo Plan might be realized.

The United States representative at the Colombo meeting said that his government welcomed the initiative of the countries participating in the Colombo Plan; that the Plan itself appeared to offer a basis for genuine co