

BRITISH INFORMATION COUNCIL FOR THE AMERICAS  
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## THE ORIGINS OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

The Colombo Plan is essentially an attack on low living standards, and related economic and social problems in part of Asia, through the joint efforts of countries in the area and outside it. Its full title is "The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia", and it was conceived at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth at Colombo, the capital of Ceylon, in January 1950.

When the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers held their meeting in Colombo, profound changes were taking place in South-East Asia, changes which have not yet run their course. In the past 15 years new nations have been created in Asia and ancient ones rejuvenated: in this period of change, the people of the region have awakened to an urgent desire for a better life. At the same time, people elsewhere in the world, in countries like Canada, have come increasingly to realize that they cannot be indifferent to the welfare of the 700 million of their fellowmen, one-quarter of the world's population, who live in South and South-East Asia.



Colombo Plan expert at work with nationals of the host country.



Village weaving in South-East Asian village.

ECA-SAIGON

*Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia—one of the world's oldest fishing grounds and site of survey by a Canadian fisheries expert on methods, equipment and marketing.*



NFB Photo by Bill McClelland