

SOME TASKS AHEAD

1. The Annual Reports of the Consultative Committee review the general economic situation and development progress and prospects of South and South East Asia. Such reviews of the past and assessments of the future focus attention on certain problems relating to the future development of the countries of the area which warrant consideration.
2. The 1955 Annual Report, for instance, found wide differences in the economic situation of the countries of the area, that much development work remained to be done, that while the need for external resources remained, the problem of mobilising domestic resources was of paramount importance, and that certain economic problems, common to the region, had been thrown into sharper focus. These issues were broadly stated and drawn out in a necessarily tentative way; only the passage of time would permit more definite conclusions.
3. Another year of experience makes it possible to delineate issues further and draw provisional conclusions regarding some of the problems common to the area. These may be summarized as follows:
  - (a) While further progress in the economic growth of the region has been made in the past year countries have become aware of the increasing need for maintaining flexibility in furthering their development programmes, while consolidating existing gains.
  - (b) In spite of considerable economic growth in past years, the problem of developing sufficient opportunities for productively employing the ever increasing human resources of the area remains.
  - (c) Varying stages and forms of development and the wide range of experience within the region provide new opportunities for cooperation among the countries of South and South East Asia.

/(d) Future