

a very close link which we all recognize between the serious difficulties encountered by a number of countries which produce primary commodities, and the capacity of those countries to sustain a reasonable rate of economic development. Here, again, the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference held in Montreal formally recognized the serious problems caused by the existence of wide fluctuations in commodity prices and the need for immediate action. To this end, Commonwealth countries agreed to take part in whatever commodity-by-commodity examination as might be required, and expressed the hope that other countries would be prepared to join in such discussions. In this connection, I am sure that we all welcomed the statement made by President Eisenhower yesterday that the United States is prepared to join in discussion, where special difficulties may arise with respect to particular primary commodities, to see whether a solution can be found.

Canada's Part

In all these initiatives, Mr. Chairman, I am glad to say that Canada is playing a full and active part. We have agreed to contribute our share to the proposed expansion of the resources of the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund. We have pledged a contribution of \$2 million to the United Nations Special Fund for the first year of its operation. And, with specific reference to the Colombo Plan, we have undertaken, subject to the approval of the Canadian Parliament, to increase our annual contribution for the next three years by roughly one-half from the current level of \$35 million a year to \$50 million a year. In their forward planning, countries may find it helpful to have this early indication of the Canadian Government's intention to contribute in larger measure to the Plan. We have also signified our intention to enlarge our aid programme to The West Indies Federation and to our Commonwealth partners in Africa.

During the fiscal year ending in March 1958, my Government allocated over \$39 million from the Colombo Plan fund to assist in the financing of agreed projects located in the region. A substantial part of this amount was used to provide additional financing for projects which have been under way for some time, such as the atomic reactor in India and the Warsak hydro-electric project in Pakistan. Our partners in these and similar undertakings would, I am sure, agree that the progress made towards their completion in the last year has been most encouraging. Since the inception of the Plan, we have found that the difficulties which inevitably arise in the execution of joint projects have steadily diminished. This improvement reflects, I think, not only a