

Technical Assistance Programmes

To get back to the assistance programmes, I will deal first with the Colombo Plan.

One of the most vital questions facing nations of the world today, both small and large alike, is the disparity between the living standards of the developed and under-developed countries. This question is important not only because of its obvious humanitarian aspects, but also because of the very significant implications it has for continued peace and prosperity throughout the whole world. Peace in the world is not likely to be a lasting state of affairs if this problem cannot be substantially solved. I believe the great majority of Canadians recognize that Canada, as one of the more fortunate nations, has an obligation in this respect and give their support to the efforts this Government is making to contribute to the economic development of less fortunate nations and to raise the living standards of their peoples.

Canada's major effort to aid under-developed countries has been made through the Colombo Plan, which is designed to foster the economic development of the nations in South and Southeast Asia through co-operative programmes of assistance. We are associated in the Colombo Plan with our sister nations of the Commonwealth in Asia, and it is, therefore, a particularly appropriate instrument for Canada's aid activity.

I might remind the Committee that, at the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference at Montreal in 1958, Canada undertook to ask Parliament to vote \$50 million for the Colombo Plan in each of the three succeeding years, an increase of close to 50 per cent over the highest contribution Canada had previously made to the Plan.

By the end of the present fiscal year, Canada will have contributed more than \$280 million to the Colombo Plan. With these funds Canada has made significant contributions to the economies of the Asian members of the Plan. We have helped to construct hydro-electric and irrigation projects, such as the great Warsak project in Pakistan, which is now nearing completion. Canadians who have seen Warsak are justifiably proud of the tremendous changes it has wrought in the lives of the tribesmen of the Northwest Frontier, and of the impact it will have on the economy of West Pakistan. Two or three weeks ago I had the opportunity to read quite a few articles in the Pakistani press and, certainly, there is no doubt that Canada was getting full credit for her part in the programme.

In India we have almost completed the construction of the Canada-India reactor, which will bring to the people of that part of Asia the benefits which flow from the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Canada is engaged in many other projects in India and Pakistan, but one which concerns both these countries and is of special significance for Canadians is the Indus Waters scheme, about which I made an announcement a few days ago. Through diligent and praiseworthy efforts by the International Bank, a plan has been worked out for the settlement of this important issue which, for many years, has clouded good rela-