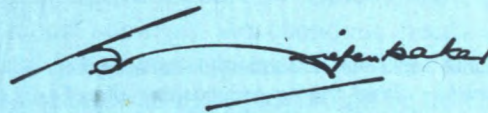


ON THIS occasion, which marks the tenth anniversary of the concept of the Colombo Plan, I share with all Canadians and the peoples of the other Colombo Plan countries a feeling of justifiable pride in the great accomplishments which the Plan has made possible. The Colombo Plan arose out of, and in turn has contributed to, the realization that the economic progress of all parts of the world is an essential element of any satisfying and enduring peace. I refer not only to the large hydro-electric projects, the irrigation schemes, the fisheries plants, the cement plants and the many other major undertakings which have been carried out under the Colombo Plan, but, as well, to the spirit of international cooperation and good will which is such an essential and inherent part of the Colombo Plan concept. Undoubtedly these many large projects will serve for years to come as worthy monuments to the skills, both human and mechanical, which went into their construction. Even more, they will stand as a lasting symbol of the spirit of international cooperation which has moved the peoples of a score of very different countries to pool their ideas and resources in what was, in 1950, and still remains, a unique and exciting experiment devoted to the welfare of humanity. The implementation of the Colombo Plan is an outstanding example of what individual nations can achieve when they unite in meeting their obligations to one another.

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Canadians, together with the people of other Commonwealth nations, are especially proud of the role of the Commonwealth in starting and sustaining this great Plan. That the original idea was so quickly and effectively extended to other nations is an indication of the important and useful part which the Commonwealth can play in international affairs.

Our association with these other nations in Asia has been one of mutual cooperation from which all have been able to benefit to a significant degree. Canadians have contributed money, materials and personal skills and, in return, have gained enormously from the experience of working closely with the many people with whom they are associated in this venture.

For the future, the Colombo Plan idea holds great promise of advancement toward the fuller and better life which is the goal of the people of the many different nations which have had the good fortune to be joined together in it.



—the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada,
on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of
the concept of the Colombo Plan.