

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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BEFORE JANUARY 14, 1960

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCEPT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

JANUARY 14, 1960 MARKS THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCEPT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN. MEETING IN COLOMBO ON JANUARY 14, 1950, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CANADA AND A NUMBER OF OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AGREED THAT THE RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONS MIGHT BE COMBINED TO FURTHER, BY CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA. WITHIN THE YEAR A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS HAD BEEN FORMED AND PLANS DRAWN UP FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

IN THE TEN YEARS SINCE THIS UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP WAS BEGUN, THE COLOMBO PLAN HAS EXPANDED WELL BEYOND THE ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP OF SEVEN COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS, UNTIL IT NOW INCLUDES ALL THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA, AS WELL AS CANADA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN. THE ORIGINAL SIX-YEAR TERM OF THE COLOMBO PLAN HAS TWICE BEEN EXTENDED. AT ITS NOVEMBER 1959 MEETING IN INDONESIA, THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE COLOMBO PLAN SHOULD NOW RUN UNTIL 1966 AND THAT A FURTHER RENEWAL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN 1964.

IN KEEPING WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE COLOMBO PLAN, CANADA HAS PROVIDED CAPITAL GRANTS TO ASSIST IN MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF TRAINING

OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADA FOR STUDENTS FROM THE COLOMBO PLAN REGION, THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM CANADA ON LOAN TO THE VARIOUS REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITIES IN THE AREA.

SINCE 1950 CANADA HAS CONTRIBUTED \$281.7 MILLION IN COLOMBO PLAN AID. THE ANNUAL CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION WAS INCREASED THIS YEAR TO \$50 MILLION AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED ITS INTENTION TO ASK PARLIAMENT FOR \$50 MILLION IN EACH OF THE FORTHCOMING TWO YEARS.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLOMBO PLAN CONCEPT IS BEING MARKED BY MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR FOREIGN MINISTERS OF COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE BEING PUBLISHED TODAY IN COLOMBO AND THE CAPITALS OF THE MEMBER NATIONS. IN HIS MESSAGE THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, THE RT. HON. JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER, HAS STATED: "THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLOMBO PLAN IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF WHAT INDIVIDUAL NATIONS CAN ACHIEVE WHEN THEY UNITE IN THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO ONE ANOTHER." THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU IS PUBLISHING ON THIS OCCASION A NUMBER OF ARTICLES RECALLING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE HISTORIC MEETING IN COLOMBO, THE FORMATIVE YEARS OF THE PLAN, AND DESCRIBING THE FORMS AND AMOUNTS OF AID ADMINISTERED UNDER THE PLAN SINCE 1950.

NOTE

THESE MESSAGES AND ARTICLES ARE BEING RELEASED THROUGH THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS RELEASE. A NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS DEALING WITH THE COLOMBO PLAN REGION, AND CANADIAN ASSISTANCE THERE, ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE INFORMATION DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ROOM 406, BANKAL BUILDING, 102 BANK ST.