



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO 50

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1953

THE 1000TH COLOMBO PLAN PERSON TO RECEIVE TECHNICAL TRAINING IN CANADA, MR. MOHAMMED SAEED, WILL ARRIVE AT UPLANDS AIRPORT, OTTAWA AT 11:25 A.M. SEPTEMBER 29TH. MR. SAEED WILL BE MET AT THE AIRPORT BY OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRADE AND COMMERCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PAKISTAN.

ON MONDAY MR. SAEED WILL BE ENTERTAINED AT A SMALL LUNCHEON TO BE HELD IN HIS HONOUR AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB BY THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. IN THE AFTERNOON HE WILL MEET THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER CABINET MINISTERS. THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER WILL PRESENT HIM WITH A SCROLL COMMEMORATING HIS ARRIVAL AS THE 1000TH TRAINEE. ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 30TH MR. SAEED WILL BE GUEST OF HONOUR AT A RECEPTION HELD BY THE OVERSEAS FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY OF OTTAWA AT FRIENDSHIP HOUSE.

MR. SAEED IS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD AND IS A GRADUATE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OF THE PUNJAB ENGINEERING COLLEGE IN LAHORE, PAKISTAN. FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS HE WAS EMPLOYED AS A SECTION ENGINEER BY THE SUI GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED WHERE HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME 120 MILES OF MAIN PIPELINE.

MR. SAEED IS INTERESTED IN GAINING AN ADVANCED PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE ON THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF GAS TRANSMISSION LINES AND IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT REPAIR METHODS, METERING AND REGULATIONS. HE WILL BE IN CANADA FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS, SPENDING HIS TIME WITH TRANS-CANADA PIPE LINES IN TORONTO, THE CANADIAN WESTERN

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NATURAL GAS COMPANY IN CALGARY AND THE ALBERTA OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION BOARD. IN ARRANGING HIS PROGRAMME, THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SERVICE HAS BENEFITTED FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVICE OF THE OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION BOARD AND THE CO-OPERATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS OF THE TWO COMPANIES CONCERNED.

THE SUI GAS TRANSMISSION SYSTEM IS BASIC TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN WHERE RESOURCES OF POWER ARE VERY LIMITED. THE LINE FROM SUI IN BALUCHISTAN TO THE CAPITAL AT KARACHI PROVIDES POWER FOR A WHOLE NEW LIGHT INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND A SECOND LINE TO LAHORE BRINGS POWER TO THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY.

CANADA ACCEPTED ITS FIRST COLOMBO PLAN TRAINEES IN 1951. FROM A SMALL BEGINNING THE PROGRAMME HAS GROWN UNTIL NOW OVER 200 PEOPLE ARE TRAINED HERE EACH YEAR. IN ADDITION TO TRAINING FACILITIES OFFERED THROUGH THE COLOMBO PLAN, CANADA HAS JUST STARTED PARALLEL PROGRAMMES FOR GHANA AND THE WEST INDIES AND ACCEPTS PEOPLE SPONSORED BY UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. ALTOGETHER, A TOTAL OF ABOUT 1700 TRAINEES HAVE COME TO CANADA. THESE PEOPLE HAVE STUDIED IN A WIDE RANGE OF FIELDS, MOST OF THEM ASSOCIATED WITH THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.