



PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Governments of Canada and India have agreed on a Statement of Principles for the co-operative economic development of India under the Colombo Plan.

The principles were confirmed by an exchange of diplomatic notes in New Delhi today (September 10).

Active consideration is now being given to the way in which the available money will be spent in Canada, and it is anticipated that a statement on this subject will be made in the near future.

The text of the Statement of Principles is attached.

COLOMBO PLAN

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES agreed between the Government of Canada and the Government of India for Co-operative Economic Development of India

The Governments of Canada and India, together with other governments, took part in London in 1950 in drawing up the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia. The Governments of Canada and India now desire to co-operate for their mutual benefit, and in particular for the achievement of the purposes of the Colombo Plan, by promoting the economic development of India. Therefore the Governments of Canada and India now wish to establish agreed principles under which economic aid from Canada will be provided to India for the purposes of the Colombo Plan, and according to which supplementary agreements may be made to cover specific programmes.

The Governments of Canada and India agree to the establishment of the following principles:

1. All economic aid supplied by the Government of Canada to the Government of India under the Colombo Plan shall consist of goods and services in accordance with specific programmes agreed upon from time to time between the two governments. Similarly, agreement will be reached on the methods of procurement and transfer.
2. In order that Canadian aid may cover different types of projects, different forms of financing may be used; in particular, Canadian aid will be available on either a grant or a loan basis, depending on the nature of each specific programme and the uses to which the goods and services supplied under it are put.
3. The particular terms of each specific programme will be a matter for agreement between the two governments, subject to the following general provisions:
 - (a) Grants: In any specific programme under which goods financed by grants from the Canadian Government are sold or otherwise distributed to the Indian public "counterpart funds" will normally be set aside. The Indian Government will set up a special account for these funds and will keep separate records of the amounts placed in the account in connection with each specific programme. It will pay into this account the rupee equivalent of the Canadian expenditures on goods and services supplied under any such programme. The Government of India will from time to time report to the Government of Canada the position of this account and will supply a certificate from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The two governments will from time to time agree on the economic development projects in India to be financed from this account.
 - (b) Loans: For the specific programmes which are agreed to be appropriate for financing by means of loans the terms of the loans will be determined by the two governments. These terms will relate primarily to the commercial character of the particular project in question, to its anticipated earnings, and to its anticipated effects on the foreign exchange position of India.