



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL 1958-59

THE 1958-59 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA WAS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO ON OCTOBER 15.

THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME IS ONE PART OF THE COLOMBO PLAN, WHICH OWES ITS ORIGIN TO A MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN MINISTERS IN COLOMBO IN JANUARY, 1950. CANADA, WHICH HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COLOMBO PLAN SINCE 1950, RECENTLY INCREASED HER ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION FOR COLOMBO PLAN AID TO \$50 MILLION, BRINGING THE TOTAL OF CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES TO MORE THAN \$351 MILLION. THE COLOMBO PLAN INCLUDES BOTH TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION (FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP AND EXPERT PROGRAMMES) AND CAPITAL AID (LARGE SCALE PROJECTS).

AMONG OTHER FACTS, THE REPORT EMPHASIZES THAT THE VOLUME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME REACHED ITS HIGHEST ANNUAL LEVEL DURING THE YEAR 1958-59, WHEN 1,717 NEW TRAINING PLACES WERE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALL THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COLOMBO PLAN. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 165 PLACES OVER LAST YEAR. THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME BY ALL COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES DURING 1958-59 WAS ABOUT 8.42 MILLION DOLLARS, COMPARED TO 7.83 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1957-58.

UNDER THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION SCHEME, WHICH HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE 1950, MEMBER GOVERNMENTS SEND TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE COLOMBO PLAN AREA TO ASSIST IN TRAINING LOCAL PERSONNEL, AND RECEIVE SPECIALLY SELECTED TRAINEES FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING. OF THE 8,603 TRAINING PLACES MADE AVAILABLE BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS SINCE THE COLOMBO PLAN WAS INAUGURATED IN 1950, CANADA HAS PROVIDED 1,097. 157 NEW TRAINEES FROM OTHER COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES WERE STUDYING IN CANADA IN 1958-59, AND 37 TECHNICAL EXPERTS WERE SENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

SEVERAL IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. THESE INCLUDE THE NEED TO PROVIDE FOR A CONSTANT EVALUATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING ITS MAXIMUM UTILIZATION, THE NEED TO PLACE EVEN GREATER EMPHASIS ON EXTERNAL AID TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A HIGH QUALITY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION GROWTH

IN ITS CURRENT REPORT, THE COUNCIL MAKES A PLEA FOR QUOTE EVEN GREATER EFFORTS UNQUOTE TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF TECHNICAL SKILL IN THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA. AMONG THOSE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA, THE COUNCIL GIVES HIGH PRIORITY TO THE PROBLEM OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH. THE POPULATION OF THE 15 COLOMBO PLAN MEMBER COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA ROSE FROM 618 MILLION IN 1950 TO 686 MILLION IN 1957. THE COUNCIL NOTES IN ITS REPORT THAT EXTERNAL AID IS LIKELY TO BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS POPULATIONS RISE DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS QUOTE IF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLES OF SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA ARE TO IMPROVE-- OR EVEN TO MAINTAIN-- THEIR PRESENT LIVING STANDARDS UNQUOTE.