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# CANADA and the COLOMBO PLAN

1951

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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.

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.

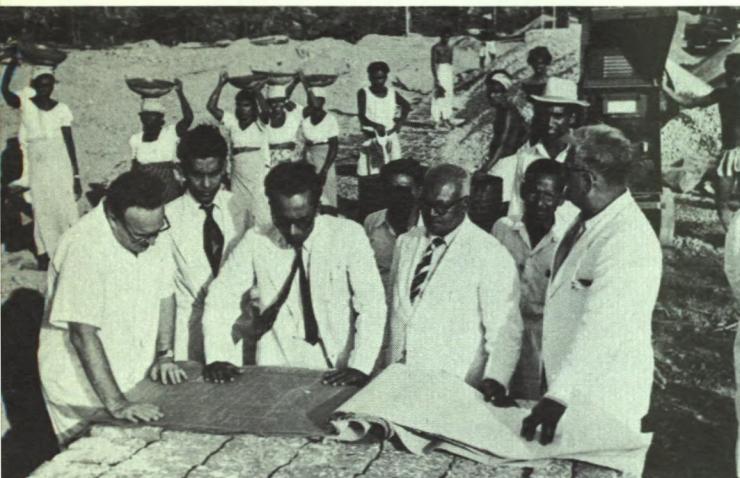


—the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada,  
on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of  
the concept of the Colombo Plan.

## THE ORIGINS OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

The Colombo Plan is essentially an attack on low living standards, and related economic and social problems in part of Asia, through the joint efforts of countries in the area and outside it. Its full title is "The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia", and it was conceived at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Commonwealth at Colombo, the capital of Ceylon, in January 1950.

When the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers held their meeting in Colombo, profound changes were taking place in South-East Asia, changes which have not yet run their course. In the past 15 years new nations have been created in Asia and ancient ones rejuvenated: in this period of change, the people of the region have awakened to an urgent desire for a better life. At the same time, people elsewhere in the world, in countries like Canada, have come increasingly to realize that they cannot be indifferent to the welfare of the 700 million of their fellowmen, one-quarter of the world's population, who live in South and South-East Asia.



Colombo Plan expert at work with nationals of the host country.



Village weaving in South-East Asian village.

ECA-SAIGON

Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia—one of the world's oldest fishing grounds and site of survey by a Canadian fisheries expert on methods, equipment and marketing.



NFB Photo by Bill McClelland



Richard Harrington

Khyber Pass area of Pakistan where Canada and Pakistan cooperated in the construction of the Warsak Dam. Dormitories housing workers on the project are seen on the far side of the Kabul River and on the horizon to the left is a typical "pillbox" built by tribesmen in the area.



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*Member of the staff of Laval University Agricultural School at Ste. Anne de la Pocatière, Quebec, instructs a plowing class for Vietnamese agricultural students.*

At Colombo in 1950, therefore, the representatives of newly-independent India, Pakistan and Ceylon, along with representatives of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom joined in recommending that:

"Steps should be taken urgently to raise living standards and promote social welfare amongst the people of South and South-East Asia, thus enabling this area with its vast potential resources to play an increasing part in fostering well-being and furthering world prosperity."

To pursue these objectives, a Commonwealth Consultative Committee, consisting of representatives of the countries mentioned above, was set up and held its first meeting in Sydney, Australia, in May, 1950. After a second meeting in London in September, 1950 the Committee produced a document entitled "The Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia." This report surveyed the economic needs of countries in the area, the development programmes prepared by the Asian Governments and the extent to which assistance from outside would be needed to carry out these programmes. This report was, in effect, the original "Colombo Plan", although the term has subsequently come to mean the continuing programme of cooperation to promote economic development which followed from that first report.



## Colombo 1950 — Tokyo 1960

Above, Senate Building in Colombo, Ceylon, where the Colombo Plan was born a decade ago.

Right, the historic first meeting in Colombo.

Below, the delegates at Colombo in a 1950 Photo.

Bottom, 1960 twelfth Consultative Committee meeting in Tokyo hears Prime Minister of Japan.



Reproduced from "The Colombo Plan Story",  
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## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

The Colombo Plan began as an initiative of Commonwealth countries, but it was understood from the beginning that non-Commonwealth countries in the area should be invited to participate. It was also agreed at an early stage that non-Commonwealth countries outside the area which had an important contribution to make would be welcome, and therefore the United States and Japan became participants. The following is the present list of participating countries, with the year they became members:

Australia (1950)	New Zealand (1950)
Burma (1952)	North Borneo (1950)*
Cambodia (1951)	Pakistan (1950)
Canada (1950)	Philippines (1954)
Ceylon (1950)	Singapore (1950)*
India (1950)	Sarawak (1950)*
Indonesia (1953)	Thailand (1954)
Japan (1954)	United Kingdom (1950)
Laos (1951)	United States of America (1951)
Federation of Malaya (1950)*	Viet-Nam (1951)
Nepal (1952)	

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\* Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo joined as Associate Members with the United Kingdom in 1950. Malaya became a full member in 1957 and Singapore in 1959.

## THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

In economic terms, South and South-East Asia is one of the so-called "underdeveloped" or "less-developed" areas of the world. This means, among other things, that production is at a low level compared with more highly developed areas and therefore individual incomes are also low. The average annual per capita income over large parts of the area is less than \$100 a year. Because incomes are so low, savings are generally not available to invest in improvements in production, and the cycle of economic activity remains at little more than a subsistence level for most of the people. Somehow, this cycle must be broken and a developing, expanding economy substituted.

The Colombo Plan is based on the conviction that the people of South-East Asia can, by their own determined effort and with some help from outside, achieve a sustained rate of economic growth that will yield them a fuller and more fruitful life.

The urgency of the problems to be faced in Asia may be readily apparent, but the things that need to be done make a very long list. Only a few of the major problems can be mentioned here.

*Indian worker extracting rice with a pedal thresher.*



Unations

In the area covered by the Colombo Plan, agriculture is the predominant source of livelihood, and therefore economic progress must start in the rural areas. But agricultural yields are far below those in countries like Canada and the United States, population density is often high, and the land cannot provide an adequate living for the very high proportion of the population that is dependent upon it. Food shortages and hunger on a large scale are one of the tragic features of this situation. To improve agricultural production, better farming techniques, better seed, fertilizer, irrigation and drainage, mechanical equipment and many other things requiring capital, skill and training are needed. At the same time, through the development of industry, for example, alternative employment must be found for millions of workers who cannot earn an adequate living from the land.

The countries of South and South-East Asia have considerable natural resources. Some of these resources are developed, and for generations certain products of the area have been important in world trade. Rubber, tin, jute, tea, cotton, spices, timber, for example, are shipped in large quantities to other parts of the world. But most of the countries are heavily dependent on exports of a few primary products, and fluctuations in the prices of these products can quickly cause severe economic hardship. The countries of the area need to develop other resources as yet unused and to diversify their economies so that their people are not dependent on only one kind of market.



*A Canadian transmission engineer demonstrates mechanised methods of transmission line construction in the Gal Oya Valley, Ceylon.*

*Canadian and Pakistani engineers discuss construction plans of the Maple Leaf Cement Plant at Daudkhal in Pakistan—a Canadian Colombo Plan Contribution.*

*Surveying in Pakistan.*



Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation



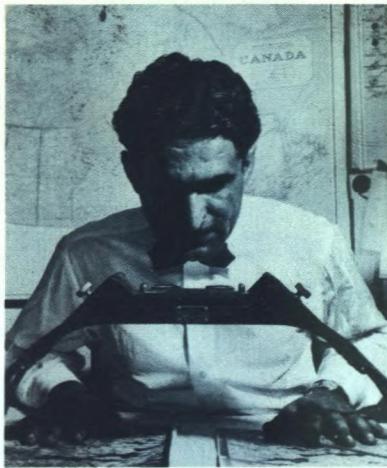
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Mekong River Project—A Canadian survey aircraft at a riverside camp.

One of the keys to the development of both agriculture and industry in South and South-East Asia is power, which means oil, coal, hydro-electricity or, perhaps ultimately, atomic energy. The region has considerable oil and coal in some areas and good sources of hydro-electric power in others which can be developed. Another key to economic progress is adequate transportation, which is closely linked with fuel and power. Great expansion of road, rail, sea and air transport facilities is needed to move food, raw materials and manufactured goods within the area and also to handle increased exports and imports.

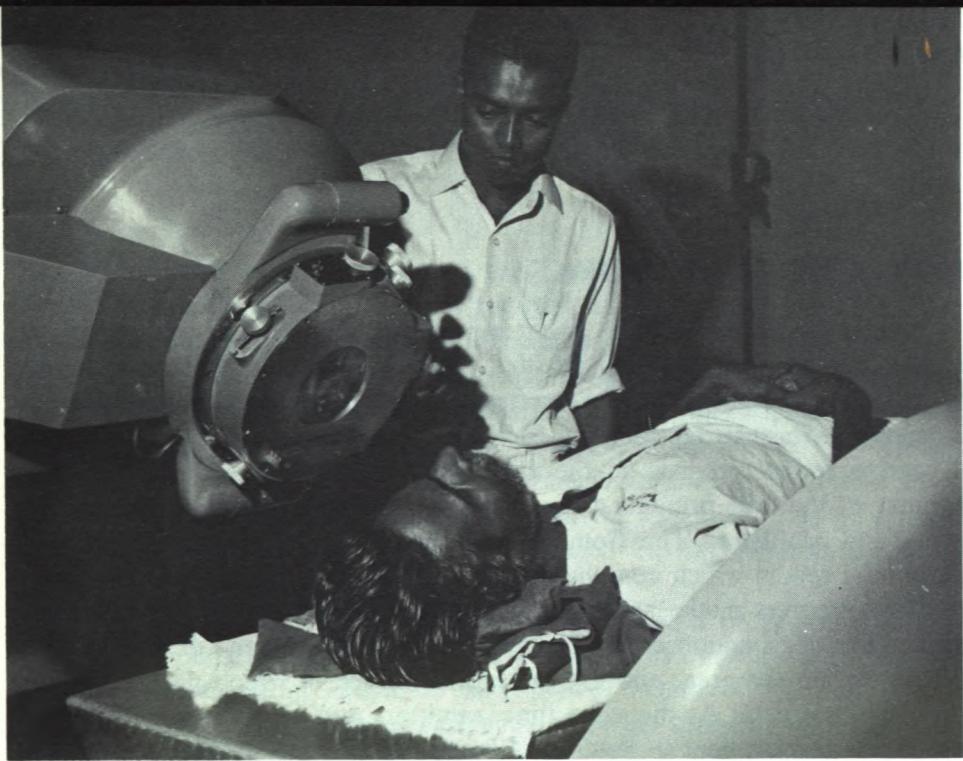
Canadian cranes at a Colombo dock.



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A Colombo Plan trainee from Pakistan, operates a magnifying stereo at the Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys in Ottawa.





Cobalt beam unit in a Ceylonese hospital.

There are also many social needs to be met in South and South-East Asia in the fields of health, education and housing. Associated with the low standards of living prevalent in many areas are high death rates, lack of medical facilities, inadequate housing, considerable illiteracy and lack of schools. These deficiencies cannot be fully remedied until economic development provides enough resources to meet the cost involved but, at the same time, economic progress requires healthy, educated individuals. Social welfare must therefore be attended to as well as economic development.

All the countries in the area covered by the Colombo Plan have drawn up development plans or programmes of one kind or another. These programmes attempt to mobilize scarce resources and direct them into the most urgent projects, with the aim of bringing about development according to the country's needs. Surveying the first set of development plans drawn up by Colombo Plan countries in 1950, the various Ministers from member countries (who formed the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan) observed that if they were to be carried out, two grave difficulties must be overcome: shortage of trained manpower and shortage of capital.

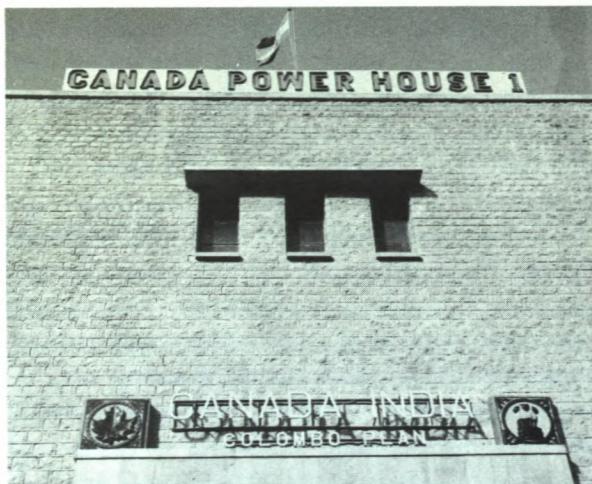
It has been recognized from the beginning of the Colombo Plan that by far the greater part of the effort to overcome the serious economic problems of South and South-East Asia must be made by the people of the area themselves. It has also been recognized that they cannot succeed without some outside assistance except, possibly, over a long period of time. But there is very little time available: the people of Asia are no longer prepared to accept a low standard of living, so easily comparable in this age of rapid communications to more prosperous conditions elsewhere, and there is an urgent pressure upon their Governments to show that progress is being made.

## HOW THE PLAN WORKS

Under the Colombo Plan, an attempt is made to combine the advantages of looking at the problems of the whole region with direct economic cooperation between individual countries. The Consultative Committee, which consists of Ministers representing each member government, now meets once a year to review progress in the area as a whole. At these meetings, each country of the area presents a report on its economic development progress, plans and problems. The Committee examines these reports and publishes an annual report which contains a summary of them, along with an assessment of progress made, assistance given and the task ahead. Thus at these annual meetings, countries outside the area learn at first hand of the problems arising within the area, and are better able to see in which particular ways they can best help. At the same time, ministers and officials concerned with economic development in South and South-East Asia can compare notes on methods being employed in neighbouring countries and benefit from the practical experience of others. The Consultative Committee provides an opportunity for remarkably frank and informal discussion.

The Consultative Committee does not, however, administer any funds or attempt to direct outside assistance to particular countries or projects. This is done by direct negotiation between the countries offering assistance and those requesting assistance. Canada, for example, discusses what it can do to provide economic and technical assistance, with each of the Asian participants in the Plan individually. One of the advantages of this method of operation is that the countries participating in individual projects can develop a direct and close working relationship with one another, while at the same time their economic cooperation is considered as part of the overall Plan.

Power house at  
Kundah Dam, India.



The technical assistance side of the Colombo Plan, under which the services of experts, training facilities for students and special equipment are provided, is called the Colombo Plan Technical Cooperation Scheme. There is a Council consisting of representatives of member governments which meets regularly in Colombo to review the operation of this Scheme and to consider ways of meeting any problems that arise in technical assistance. The Council is also concerned with disseminating information about the Colombo Plan.

The only permanent staff associated with the Colombo Plan is a small Bureau in Colombo which services the Council on Technical Cooperation and provides information material on the Plan.

The 1950 report on the Colombo Plan projected a programme of economic development covering a six-year period, i.e. from July 1951 to July 1957. The participating countries subsequently extended this period, and in 1959 agreed on a further extension. At present, therefore, the Colombo Plan is scheduled to continue to 1966, with the understanding that its future will again be reconsidered before the end of that period.

## CANADA'S ROLE IN THE COLOMBO PLAN

*Appropriations and Procedures*—In the ten years from the beginning of the Colombo Plan to the end of 1960, the Canadian Parliament appropriated a total of \$332 million for Canadian assistance to the Asian members of the Plan. The first appropriation was \$400 thousand in the fiscal year 1950-51, primarily for participation in the Technical Cooperation Scheme: since that time, the annual contribution rose to \$25.4 million in 1951-52, to \$34 million in 1956-57, and to \$50 million in 1959-60.

In the course of contributing to the Plan as a whole, Canadian aid has taken four chief forms: capital projects, industrial commodities, foodstuffs and technical assistance. All Canadian assistance under the Colombo Plan has so far been in the form of grants requiring no repayment, although in addition to the Colombo Plan programme, loans have been made to some countries in the area. Each year, when Parliament passes the Colombo Plan appropriation, the Governments of the Asian countries concerned are informed of the amount of funds available and invited to suggest which particular development needs Canada might help to meet.



*A floating crane loads a locomotive destined for Ceylon as part of Canada's contribution to the Colombo Plan.*

A further point to note is that no direct financial grants are made under the Canadian Colombo Plan programme. All of Canada's assistance takes the form of goods, equipment or technical services which are available in Canada, and which are needed for a specific development programme or project in the recipient country. In considering individual projects, the main factors in the Canadian Government's decision to fill a particular request for assistance are whether the project is likely to make an effective contribution to economic development in keeping with the objectives of the Colombo Plan, and whether the goods or services needed are within Canada's capabilities. For example, Canada does not normally supply such things as building materials, which are likely to be available locally in the recipient country. Nor does Canada attempt to accept requests which might be more easily met by another participating country, or by one of the international agencies which provide economic and technical assistance.

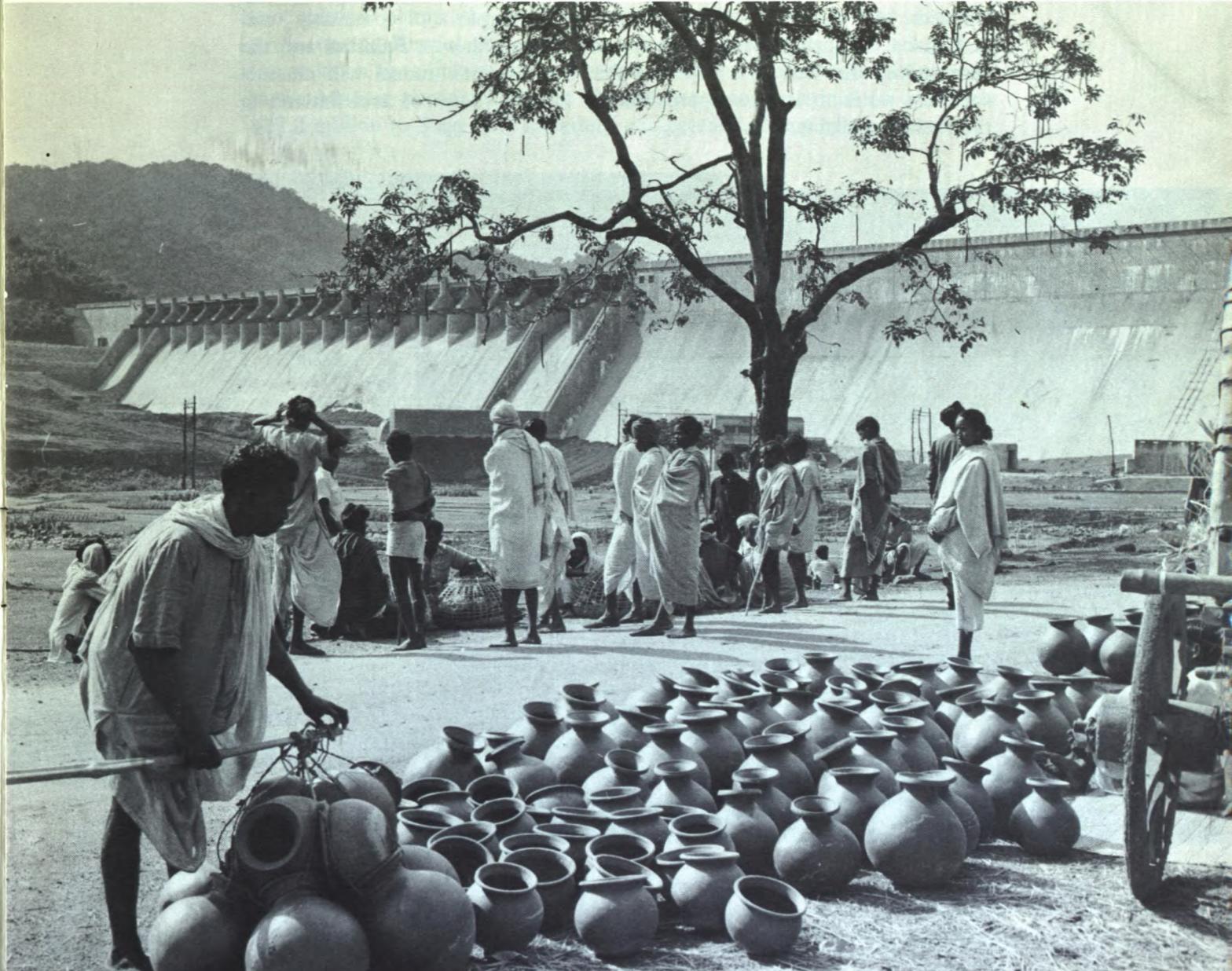
## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### Power and Irrigation

The capital assistance that Canada has provided under the Colombo Plan has been directed to helping to establish or to improve basic facilities upon which the countries of the area can develop their economies. For example, the generation and transmission of electric power is something all developing countries must place high on their list of priorities and it is also a field in which Canada is well qualified to assist. As a consequence Canada has helped to design, build and equip hydro-electric power development plants at Mayurakshi, Umtru and Kundah in India, and at Warsak and Shadiwal in West Pakistan.

*Market day at Mayurakshi, India, with The Canada Dam in the background.*

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A Canadian engineer, with his  
Pakistani tribesman assistant, at the site  
of the Hydro Electric Project  
at Warsak, Pakistan.

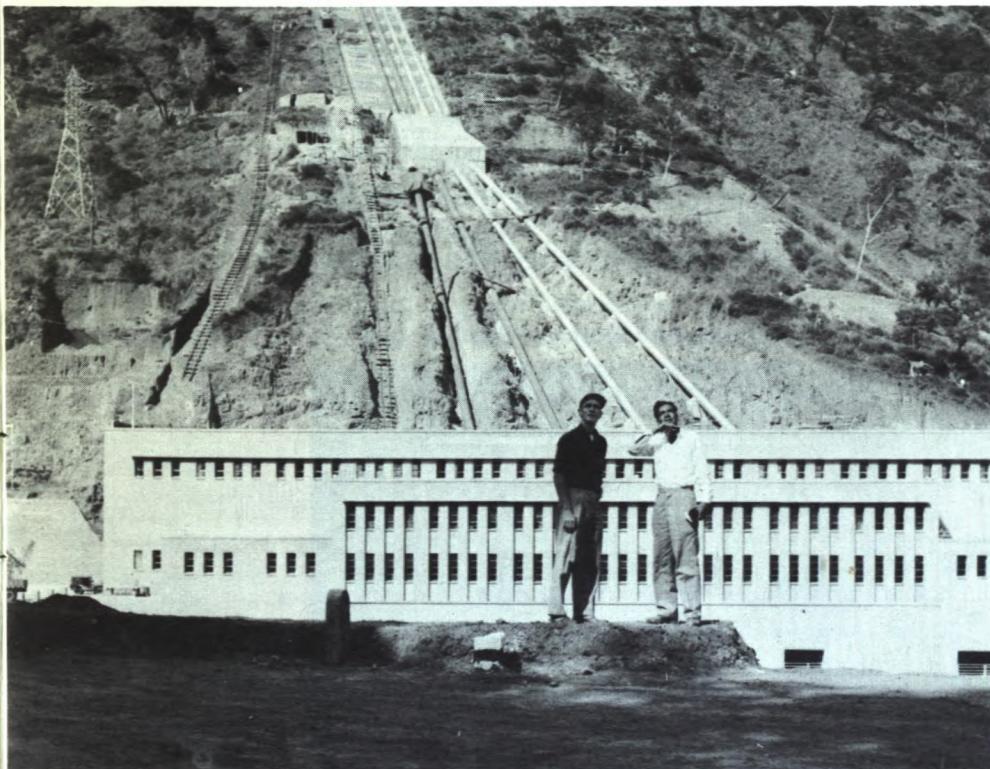
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*Warsak*—Inaugurated early this year, the Warsak Project is the largest contribution Canada has made so far in this field, costing some \$37 million. Pakistan made a contribution of roughly the same amount in local costs. Warsak is located on the Kabul River near the famous Khyber Pass and in some of the most difficult terrain known anywhere. The Warsak dam represents a major achievement of engineering skill, since many unique problems had to be solved. The rock conditions made the driving of the 37 foot diameter and 1,700 foot long diversion tunnel extremely difficult. The fluctuation of the river flow is such that construction of the dam in the river bed was restricted to approximately seven months of the year, with the result that the designing of the dam and coffer dams presented many problems and required the introduction of techniques not commonly used in Canada. Besides providing electric power to north-west Pakistan and the surrounding districts, it is expected that the diversion tunnel will channel sufficient water to irrigate approximately 100,000 acres of arid flatland in the Peshawar plains.

The Warsak Dam,  
under floodlights,  
on the Kabul River  
in Pakistan.

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**Kundah**—The inauguration ceremony held at Warsak took place in January 1961. On that occasion, Canada was represented by the Honourable Mr. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Veterans Affairs, who also officiated during the same month at the inauguration of what have been called Stages 1 and 2 of the Kundah project in India. Situated on the Kundah River in the Nilgiri Hills of Madras, this power and irrigation project is being constructed in four stages. Canada has contributed \$23.5 million in the form of two power houses which will have an overall capacity of 180,000 kilowatts. Materials for the construction of transmission lines and towers for distribution of power from Kundah were also contributed by Canada. India undertook all the civil works relating to Kundah including the construction of the dams. The additional power provided by this project will be used largely for irrigation purposes. The third stage of the Kundah development will involve the construction of three additional power plants with a total installed capacity of 185,000 kilowatts; the addition of an extra generating unit in each of the two existing plants; the construction of additional storage and diversion works on the Kundah River and its tributaries; and finally the erection of transmission lines linking the various plants of the project, and joining them to the Madras electricity system. Canada has recently agreed to contribute \$22.2 million to Stage 3 in materials, equipment and engineering services.



*Canadian and Indian engineers at the Kundah Dam, India.*

*Canadian and Indian welders at the Kundah Dam in India.*



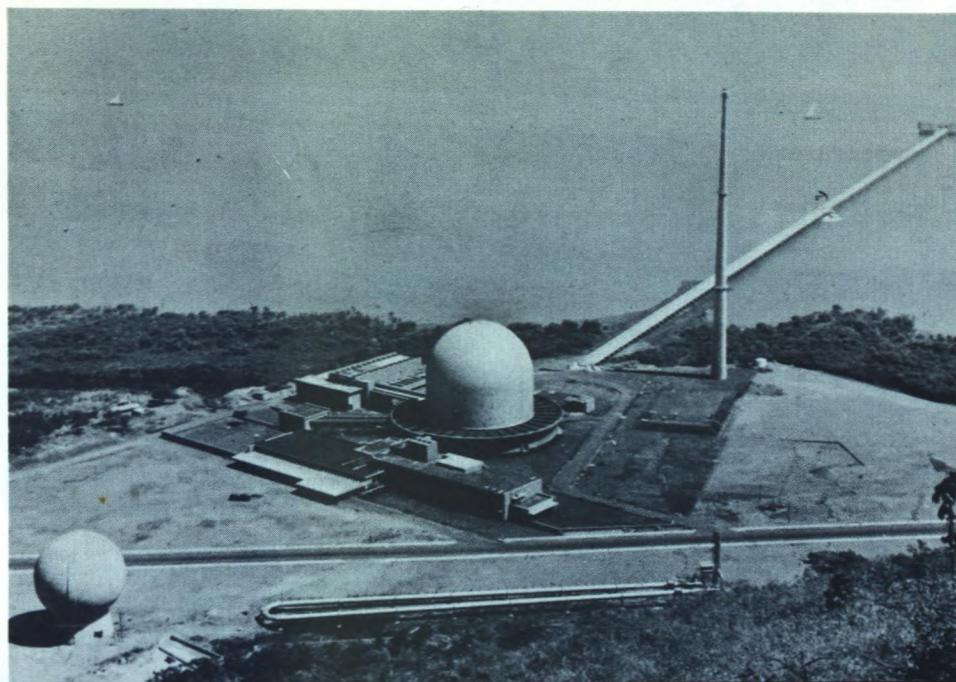
*A Canadian expert and his helper working on transmission line towers in Ceylon.*



In addition to aiding hydro-electric development, Canada has also supplied two thermal generators of 5,000 kilowatts each to the Ganges-Kobadak Thermal Electric Generating Project on the Ganges River near the junction of the Brahmaputra north east of Dacca, as well as a thermal power plant to the Goalpara project, also in East Pakistan. Materials, equipment and general supervision for the erection of electric power transmission lines and towers have also formed a large part of Canada's aid to Ceylon, India and Pakistan.

*Atomic Reactor*—A major project of a unique kind undertaken by Canada in India is the Canada-India Atomic Reactor. Situated near Bombay, the reactor was also formally inaugurated in January 1961. It is an advanced research reactor of the same type as the NRX reactor at Chalk River in Canada. It will serve as a basic facility for an Indian programme of research into the uses of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and will also be available to scientists from other countries in the area. Canada's contribution, consisting of the reactor itself and associated engineering services, cost about \$9 million.

*The Canada-India Reactor at Trombay, India.*



## Transport and Communications

Transportation is of course another basic facility of prime importance in economic development of any country or area. Such roads and railways as existed in South and South-East Asia had suffered serious deterioration in the Second World War. At the end of hostilities more than a third of the pre-war track had been torn up and rendered useless, and roads and bridges were destroyed, together with large numbers of water craft and working animals. During the last sixteen years, some of the deficiencies in the transport facilities and equipment of the area have been made good, but not all the railways have yet been re-built, and in addition much expansion of these facilities is required. This applies also to highways: the development of hydro-electric power stations, irrigation systems and industrial plants entails movement of heavy construction equipment, for which improved roads capable of bearing the increased traffic and loads are now essential.

In total, Canada has allocated more than \$43 million to Colombo Plan countries for the development of transportation and communications. One of the earliest projects in this field to which Canada contributed was that of the Bombay State Transport in India in 1952. There was a serious congestion at that time in Bombay harbour because of inadequate means for removing freight offloaded there. Canada's contribution was in the form of truck and bus chassis, tractors, truck bodies, trailers, diesel bus engines and pick-up trucks, together with equipment for maintenance shops.

The Government of India is paying particular attention, of course, to the rehabilitation of railways. The supply of rolling stock available after the war was dangerously low, and India could not then produce sufficient locomotives quickly enough to meet the demand. Colombo Plan assistance was therefore sought. Canada was at that time able to make delivery earlier than other countries, and allocated more than \$23 million to Indian railways in the form of steam locomotives and boilers. More recently another \$2 million of aid in the form of diesel locomotives has been provided. Canada has also supplied wooden railway ties to the value of about \$5.5 million.

*Pakistan*—Canada also supplied railway ties, similar to those given to India and valued at more than \$2.5 million to Pakistan to aid in the rehabilitation of Pakistani railways.

*Ceylon*—Canada has contributed over \$7 million to Ceylon for various projects in the field of transportation. To assist in the modernizing of Ceylon's railways, Canada has supplied railway ties and diesel locomotives. Diesel electric cranes were shipped to assist in the Colombo Plan seaport development programme. The Ceylon Department of Civil Aviation is developing



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and extending facilities at Ratmalana Airport, one object being to make it safer for high-speed transport: Canada has allocated about \$367,000 for the supply of telecommunication equipment to this project. Canada has also shipped light duty trucks as part of a contribution to the Gal Oya Agricultural Development Scheme. In addition, the development of rural roads has been aided by counterpart funds raised from the local sale of flour donated by Canada.

*Indonesia*—Indonesia has received assistance in the form of Otter Aircraft, which are for use in the air transport service being built up to open extensive areas within the large islands that are at present inaccessible, except by river boat or jungle trains.

*Burma*—Canada has recently agreed to assist the Government of Burma in the construction of a bridge across the Pazundaung River to link the suburb town of Thaketa to Rangoon. Material and engineering services will be provided by Canada to the value of \$900,000, representing the foreign exchange cost of the project, and arrangements are being made to offset some of the local costs (to the equivalent value of \$950,000) with counterpart funds arising from previous donations of Canadian wheat.



Unwinding cable at the Gal Oya Project in Ceylon.

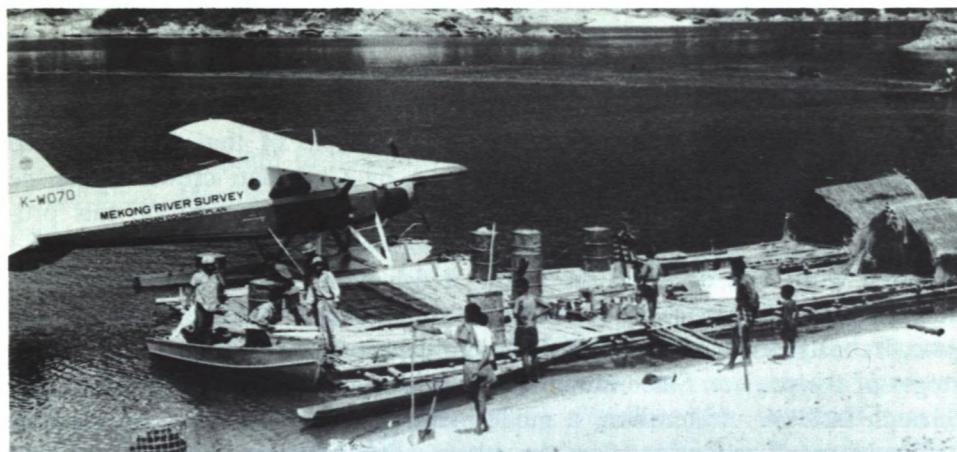
Locomotive made in Canada and given to Ceylon as part of Canada's contribution to the Colombo Plan.

A Canadian technician operates a recorder in an aircraft during the Mekong River Survey, conducted as part of Canada's contribution to the Colombo Plan.



## Resources Surveys

The techniques of surveying and mapping from the air as a basis for utilizing natural resources are well developed in Canada, and aerial surveys have figured prominently in the Canadian capital aid programme. Ceylon, India, Pakistan and Malaya have all received Canadian help in carrying out aerial surveys which they needed in order to determine more accurately their mineral and soil resources. In South-East Asia, Canada has carried out an aerial survey of a large part of the Mekong River as a part of its Colombo Plan assistance to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and South Vietnam. These four countries, which share the Lower Basin of the Mekong, are engaged in the preliminary stages of a programme originated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East for developing the resources of this great river.



Canadian aircraft delivering supplies to a field party at confluence of Nam Ca Dinh and Mekong Rivers.

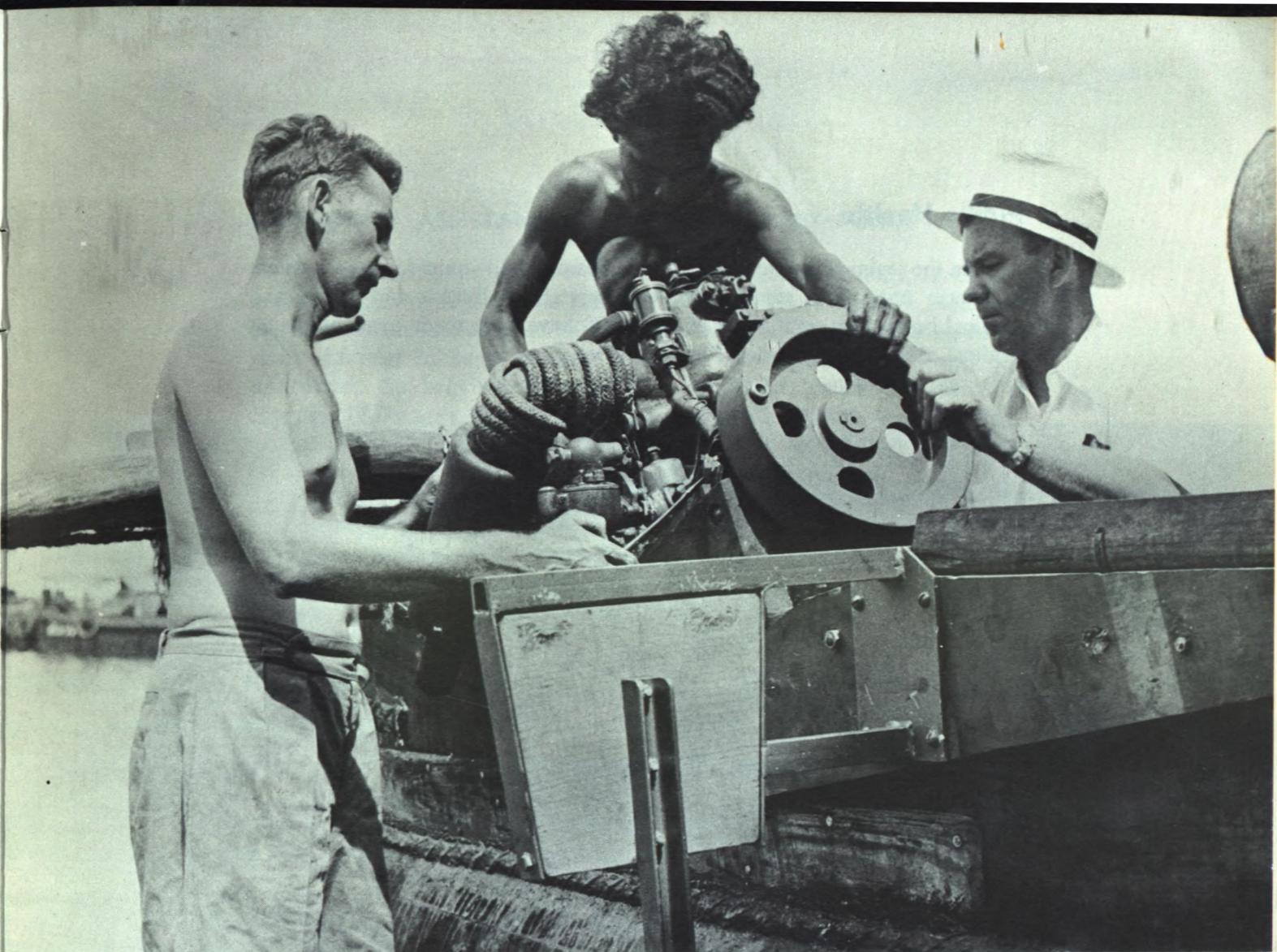
## Agriculture

In the field of agriculture, Canada has provided such items as crop-spraying aircraft and other pest control equipment to Pakistan and India; workshop equipment for agricultural machinery in Burma and Pakistan; mobile veterinary clinics for Cambodia, portable irrigation pumps to Ceylon, and soil science equipment to Malaya. In the early years of the Plan, Canada joined with Australia and New Zealand in the development of an experimental farm in the Thal area of West Pakistan. Its objective was to provide refugee settlers with draught, milk and other animals to carry out agricultural experiments, to supply the best type of seed for the area, and in general to provide a research station for the benefit of the settlers. Canada's contribution included agricultural machinery and equipment.

In addition, assistance has been extended to both India and Pakistan by the contribution of about \$101,000 to the Commonwealth Biological Control Institute for the establishment of a Biological Control Research Station at Bangalore in South India and at Rawalpindi in Pakistan.

## Fisheries

*Ceylon*—Fisheries development has also played an important part in helping to alleviate food shortages in South-East Asia. Canada's largest contribution in this field has been to aid the establishment of an experimental fisheries project in Ceylon designed to increase fish catches, to improve handling and market facilities and thus to help to overcome the serious protein deficiency in food consumed by the people of that country. Two Canadian west coast fishing boats manned by Canadian crews, a marine biologist and a fishing expert were sent to Ceylon to inaugurate this programme. In the initial phase, a considerable amount of experimental and research work was done on the study of fish habits, feeding grounds, etc., and on instructing local fishermen how to make more efficient use of fishing gear. Latterly, a Canadian trawler was supplied to assist in the more advanced stages of the project. Since much of the catch had been unavoidably spoiled through lack of refrigeration, a modern refrigeration plant was installed as well as a small reduction plant for turning fish offal into animal feed and fertilizer, and for the extraction of fish oils. At the same time, the Government of Ceylon built an excellent fishing harbour and breakwater contiguous to



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*The captain of a Canadian fishing trawler installing an inboard motor in a native "ORU" in Ceylon.*

the refrigeration plant to facilitate landing the catch immediately at the site of the plant. Marine engines, laboratory equipment, machineshop tools and fishing equipment were also supplied by Canada for the various experimental stages of this project.

*Malaya*—In 1960 Canada agreed to assist the Government of Malaya in fisheries development on the east coast of Malaya, where storage and marketing are main problems of the fishermen. Canada is supplying refrigerated storage spaces for two fish carrier boats, together with insulated trucks. The major Canadian contribution to this project, however, will be the supply of refrigeration and cold storage units, as well as components for the construction of prefabricated buildings to house them.

## Public Health

In the realm of public health, cobalt beam therapy units for the treatment of cancer have been supplied to ten hospitals in Burma and India, and medical books to a total value of \$220,000 have been made available to 88 medical schools in Colombo Plan countries.



A Canadian nurse teaching at the Patna Medical College Hospital in Patna, India.

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**SUMMARY**—These are just a few of the capital assistance projects undertaken by Canada in cooperation with other member countries of the Colombo Plan.

## COMMODITY ASSISTANCE AND COUNTERPART FUNDS

The commodities supplied by Canada, apart from foodstuffs, have been mainly metals, fertilizer, wood-pulp and asbestos. These essential commodities have been requested by certain Colombo Plan countries that are extremely short of foreign exchange but need to import raw materials for industry and agriculture. To help meet the deficit in foodgrains which also exists in countries of the area, Canada has also provided \$70 million worth of wheat and flour under the Colombo Plan and another \$35 million in special grants for the same purpose.

When Canada supplies commodities, such as metals, food, etc. which actually enter into direct trade and consumption in the receiving country, the Government of that country sets aside a sum of money in local currency equivalent to the Canadian dollar value of the commodities. These so-called "counterpart funds" are the property of the country concerned, but they are spent only on economic development projects which are agreed to by the Canadian Government. This device is a way of adhering to the basic economic development objectives of the Colombo Plan, even though the aid takes the form of consumable goods.

*Canadian wheat, shipped to Pakistan under provisions of the Colombo Plan for the Economic Development of South and South-East Asia, being unloaded in Karachi. The shipment was required to alleviate famine conditions.*



## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Canada's technical assistance to Colombo Plan countries falls into two categories. On the one hand, Canadian experts are sent to the South-East Asia area as teachers, advisers and technicians: on the other, Asians come to Canada for periods of training and study.

In the past ten years, 207 Canadians have served on individual technical assistance assignments under the Colombo Plan. They have included school and university teachers, flying instructors, fisheries experts, agriculturalists, experts in cooperatives, engineers, accountants, nurses, doctors, geologists, statisticians, scientists, administrators and a variety of other experts. Many experts were sent to advise and teach in connection with capital assistance projects: for example, biologists, cooperatives and fishing experts to the Fisheries Project in Ceylon; and a team of power plant operation experts to the Warsak Project in Pakistan. In some cases, technical experts were accompanied on their assignments by their wives, who showed remarkable initiative in voluntarily taking up teaching work in schools or giving instruction in home handicrafts, and generally helping in other ways during their stay with their husbands. Some Canadian teachers and their wives who went to remote jungle areas, found that they were also required to discharge medical and nursing duties, and even to advise on simple farming improvements.

### **Colombo Plan Students in Canada**

The 1,800 "trainees" from Asia who came to Canada under the Colombo Plan in the same period have studied a very wide range of subjects. The broad categories (with many subdivisions) into which their studies can be classified, number approximately 60 separate fields of knowledge and include such subjects as aerial surveying, agriculture, cooperatives education, engineering, fisheries, forestry, health, industrial development, public administration, social welfare, statistics, and vocational training. Every effort is made to link training in Canada with related projects at home: this applied particularly to engineers connected with the hydro-electric power development projects already mentioned. Perhaps the most noteworthy example of this was a group of over 40 scientists, technicians and operators from India's Department of Atomic Energy, who spent varying periods in Canada studying the NRX-type atomic reactor at Chalk River. The Chalk River reactor is similar to that built by Canada at Bombay under the Colombo Plan.



*Colombo Plan trainee from Burma at the St. Mary Damsite in Southern Alberta.*

Women have been well represented among the Asian visitors to Canada under the Technical Cooperation Scheme. They have taken practical training and achieved academic honours in many fields, particularly in medicine, nursing, teaching, etc. Their attractive modes of dress have brought a welcome colour and variety to the places they have visited across Canada, and many have been asked to speak to private groups regarding their work and their countries.

In the beginning of the Technical Cooperation Scheme, observation tours of comparatively short duration gave Asians the opportunity of working with private firms, associations and organizations in all provinces of Canada, as well as in government offices at all levels. However, there has over the years been an increasing tendency on the part of the governments of Colombo Plan countries to request academic training for their people. At first only post-graduate training was given, but with the entry into the Colombo Plan at a later stage of some countries lacking adequate higher education facilities, many undergraduate students came to Canada for lengthy periods to study a variety of subjects in universities, technical and commercial schools across Canada. The French-speaking countries of South-East Asia have turned particularly to Canada in this respect, and numbers of students from Cambodia, Laos, South Vietnam have received training in Quebec's French-speaking educational establishments.

From time to time group training programmes are given, such as that extended each year in the early days of the Plan to junior administrative officers of the civil service of Pakistan, who were given intensive practical training in the various aspects of Canadian public administration at the three levels of government. Another more recent group programme was arranged in the field of agriculture in connection with the Seed Improvement Year sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization in 1961 to increase the availability of good seed within each country of the area. Groups of officials representing Burma, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan and Thailand were given the opportunity of spending four months in Canada observing Canadian methods and practices in connection with the growing, handling

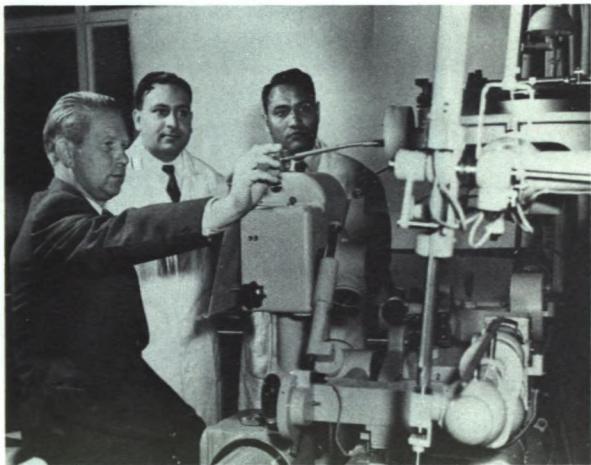
*Vietnamese agricultural student on tractor at Laval University Agricultural School, Ste. Anne de la Pocatière, P.Q.*

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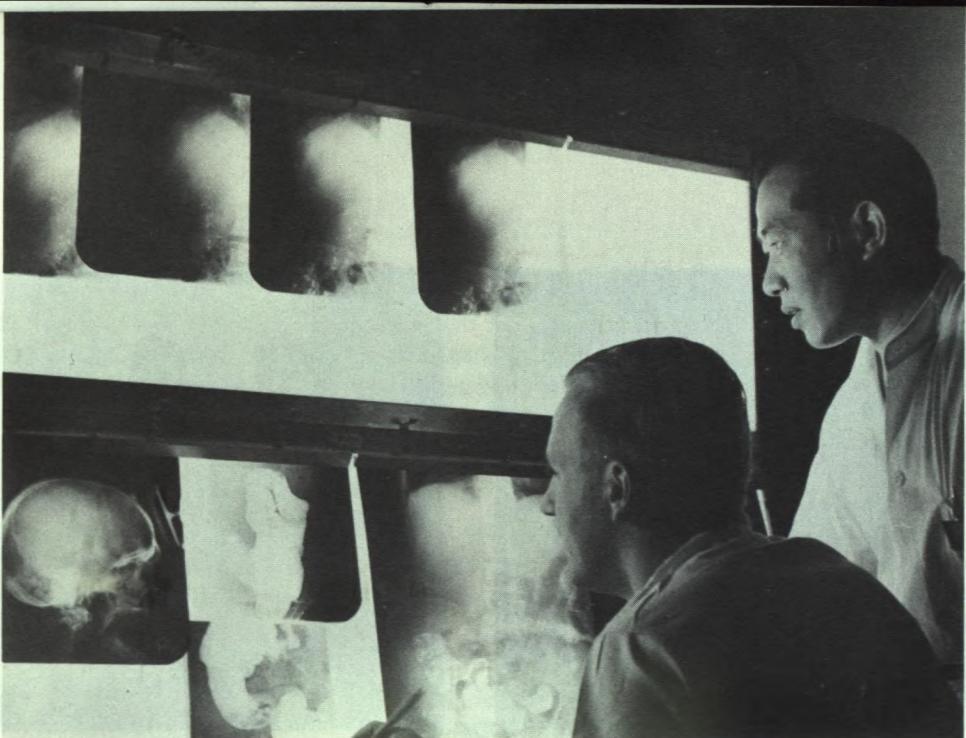
*Colombo Plan trainee from Pakistan conducting research on penicillin in the Department of Health and Welfare, Ottawa.*



*Two officials of the Survey of Pakistan, receive instruction on the stereoplanigraph, used in aerial photography and photogrammetry, National Research Council, Ottawa.*

and distribution of seed. Also, groups of Asian officials at all levels have undertaken programmes in Canada in the fields of cooperatives, highway engineering, public health and agriculture. Canadian universities and technical schools have been particularly helpful in arranging special academic programmes for various groups of "trainees" in such fields as public administration, country and town planning. An interesting project in science education was also carried out in collaboration with the Government of India and the Ford Foundation. Science teachers were brought from various parts of India to undergo a year's training at the Ontario College of Education, after which the Ontario Department of Education arranged a year's "internship" for them as teachers, each in different schools in the Province.

This exchange of persons is not the only way, however, in which Canada has been helping to meet the needs of the countries of South and South-East Asia for skilled, professional and administrative manpower. Equipment and books have been supplied to universities and schools in Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, Malaya, North Borneo, Pakistan, Singapore and South Vietnam. In addition, many of the capital projects mentioned above involved the stationing of considerable numbers of Canadian engineers and technicians in Asia and the training by them of numerous local personnel in construction and maintenance techniques. The most notable case was the Warsak Hydroelectric Project in Pakistan, where it is estimated that as many as ten-thousand Pakistanis—mostly tribesmen from the north-west frontier—learned some new trade or skill while working on the project over a five-year period.



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*Indonesian trainee discusses a diagnosis in the Royal Victoria Hospital's Radiology Department in Montreal.*

A most important feature of technical cooperation under the Colombo Plan is that, because it involves an exchange of persons, there are many mutual advantages to the participating countries. Canada has shared in these advantages in several ways. For example, Canadians learn to use their skills in other environments and on new problems, thereby enriching their own professional as well as personal experience. Secondly, aid provides further opportunity to demonstrate Canadian goods and services in important areas of the world. In many cases, Asian trainees have added considerably to Canadian knowledge in the very subjects they came here to study: post-graduate students carrying out important research work in producing their theses, particularly in the fields of agriculture and medicine, have made their valuable work available to Canadian universities and research organizations. While working in Canada on their training programmes, Asians have also brought new ideas and working methods to their Canadian colleagues.

In short, the Colombo Plan technical assistance programme has proved to be a vehicle for the pooling of ideas and skills of persons from widely differing environments and cultural backgrounds. Throughout Canada, at many universities, business and government institutions, students and professional men and women from South-East Asia are pursuing their studies and at the same time bringing Canadians into direct contact with their outlook as people, and their particular knowledge and skills. At the same time, Canadians in South-East Asia are bringing similar contact with Canada to the people with whom they are working.

*Colombo Plan trainee from Burma  
studying radio therapy at the Ontario  
Cancer Foundation, London, Ontario.*



Ontario Cancer Foundation

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## THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

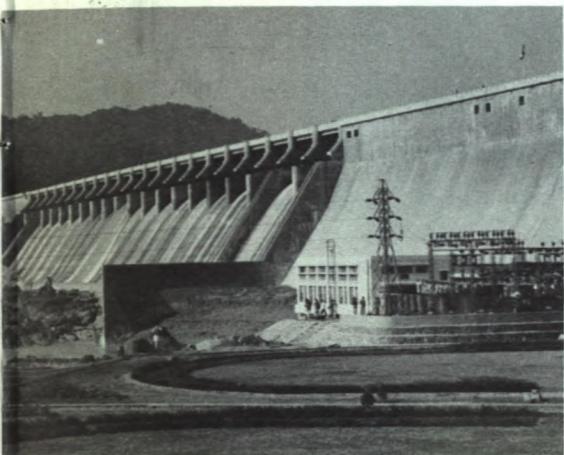
Each country which participates in the Colombo Plan is contributing in its own way and in keeping with its resources to the common objective. It is difficult to make comparisons between the so-called "donor countries" because their assistance takes such a variety of forms, and costs vary from country to country. No detailed statistical comparisons will, therefore, be attempted here, but some selected figures are given as illustrations. It must also always be remembered that the largest contribution comes from the countries in which the various projects are located.

Up to the middle of 1961, the period covered by the latest report of the Consultative Committee, total contributions since the beginning of the Plan amounted to more than \$10 billion. The United States, with its very extensive programmes of loans, grants, technical assistance and foodstuffs, provided well over \$8 billion of this total. The United Kingdom contributed about \$512 million. Australian assistance was valued at about \$88 million.

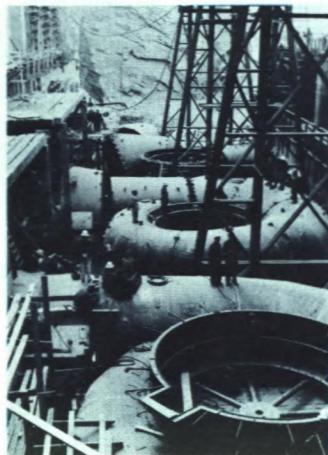
From 1950 to mid-1961, over 19,000 trainees had been given training under the Technical Cooperation Scheme and 3,155 experts had been provided to countries in the area by members of the Colombo Plan. Here also the United States was the source of the greater part of the external assistance. Very considerable numbers of experts were provided by other donor countries, however. Australia provided 441, Japan 347, New Zealand 156 and the United Kingdom 446. These countries were also active in providing training places, with Australia taking 3,530 trainees, Japan 646, New Zealand 896, and the United Kingdom 3,880.

One significant feature of the Colombo Plan reports in recent years has been the degree to which countries within the area have been increasingly able to offer assistance, especially in the field of technical cooperation, to other Asian countries. India, for example, has taken more than 1,500 trainees from other Colombo Plan countries and made available 169 experts. Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines also figure in the list of donor countries.

The Colombo Plan is not, of course, the only channel of economic and technical assistance to South and South-East Asia. The United Nations and its Specialized Agencies are making very important contributions. For example, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has loaned more than \$1 billion to countries in the Colombo Plan area in the past ten years.



Canada Dam, Mayurakshi, India.



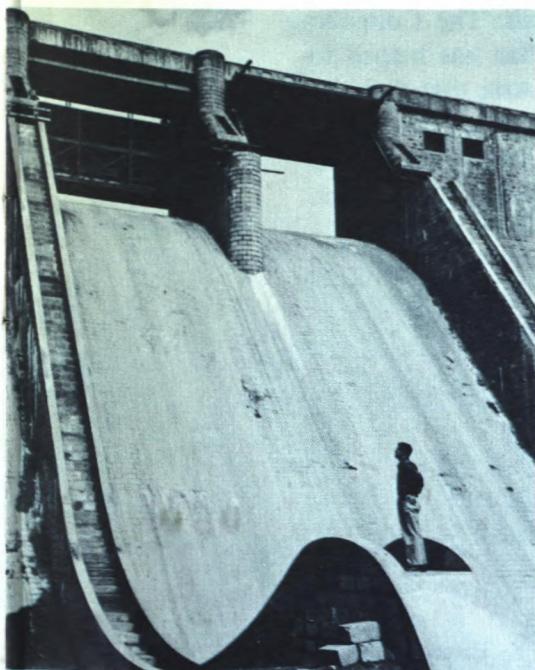
Power house under construction  
at the Warsak project  
in Pakistan.



The headquarters office in Vientiane, Laos,  
for the Canadian survey of the Mekong River.

## THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PLAN

Since 1950 there have been impressive achievements in economic and social development by many of the countries of South and South-East Asia. New industries have been established, irrigation and electricity have been made available to large areas for the first time, agricultural production has improved, large numbers of people have been trained, illiteracy has been reduced and disease is steadily coming under control. In these accomplishments the Colombo Plan has played a vital part by stimulating progress and bringing additional resources to bear from outside the area.



Canada Dam, Mayurakshi  
Project, India. The project  
includes irrigation and hydro-  
electric works designed to  
raise the productivity of over  
600,000 acres of arable farmlands  
as well as producing power  
for rural electrification.

NFB Photo by Richard Harrington

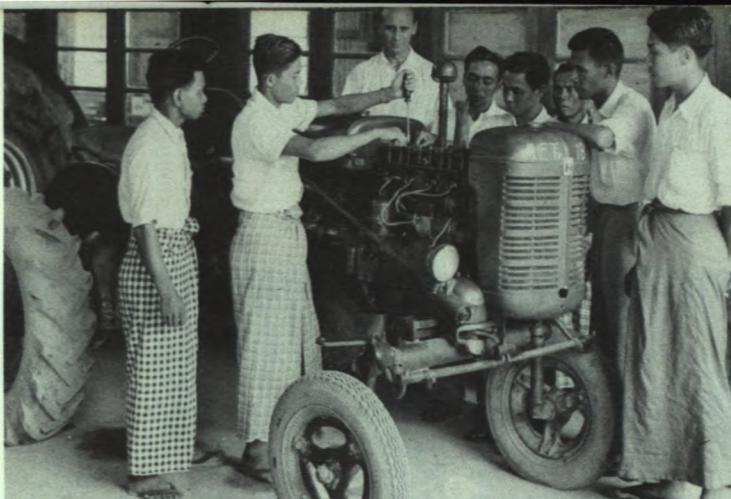


View of the harbour under development  
in Ceylon for the use of  
fishing vessels. In the centre is  
the site of the cold storage and  
by-products plant, built by Canada  
under the Colombo Plan.  
The breakwaters were constructed with  
counterpart funds from the sale of  
flour supplied by Canada.



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A member of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada examines a fisherman's net on the beach near the Fisheries Project in Ceylon.



A Canadian instructor with a group of students in Burma.

There are no short-cuts to success in raising the rate of economic growth, however, and enormous tasks yet remain. While national incomes are now rising in the area at rates ranging between 3% and 5% each year, population is also rising, at around 2% per annum. This is not an extraordinarily high rate in percentage terms, but it means that there are now at least 100 million more people in South and South-East Asia than there were when the Colombo Plan began. The increased production that has so far been achieved, therefore, has not yet made a really significant difference to the annual income of the average person in the area when it is applied to the increased population. If the standard of living of the average man is to be raised substantially, and that is the basic objective of the Colombo Plan, the rate of economic growth must be greatly accelerated.

In many countries the foundations for such an acceleration have been laid in the past ten years. Organized, planned efforts to speed development are under way all over the Colombo Plan area, and a great deal has already been done to provide the skilled and trained manpower and the basic capital facilities upon which further development can now be built. The Colombo Plan has been the source of much of this progress. The Plan has helped to bring hope to millions of people in South and South-East Asia that their lot can be improved, to demonstrate that they can count on effective support from the people of more economically advanced countries and to prove that developed and less-developed nations can work together in free cooperation to achieve tangible advances in living standards.

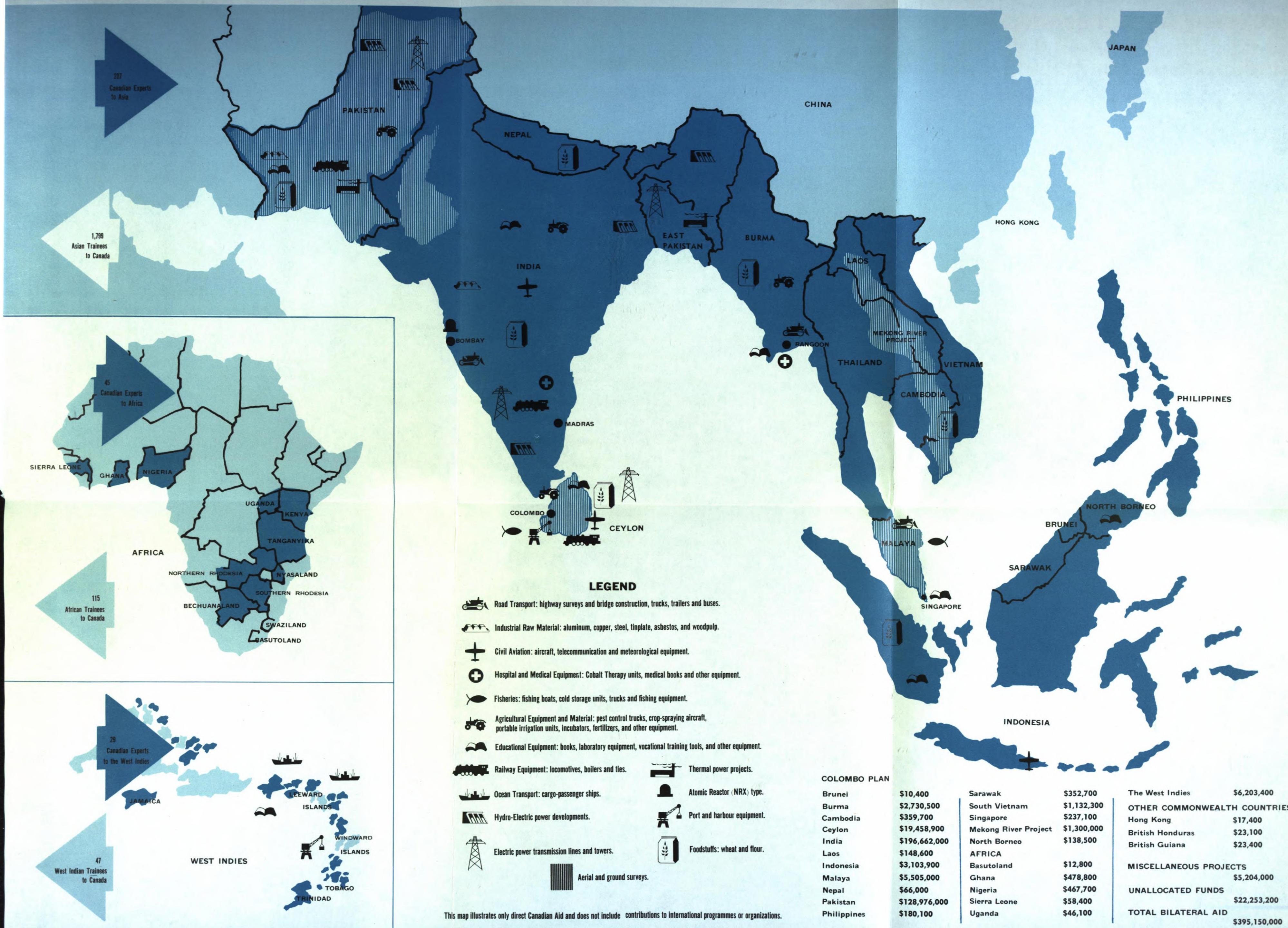


Men at work in one of the Canadian fisheries trawlers in Ceylon.

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