



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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THE 8TH COLOMBO PLAN REPORT

DETAILS OF CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN ARE GIVEN IN THE 8TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS TABLED TODAY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REPORT SHOWS THAT UP TO THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR 1958-59, CANADA HAD PROVIDED \$231,620,000 IN ECONOMIC AID TO THESE COUNTRIES. WITH THE ADDITION OF \$50 MILLION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1959-60, CANADA'S TOTAL CONTRIBUTION WILL REACH APPROXIMATELY \$282 MILLION. CANADA HAS ALSO MADE GRANTS OF \$35 MILLION AND LOANS OF \$35 MILLION TO MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR THE PURCHASE OF WHEAT AND FLOUR.

ALSO SHOWN IN THE REPORT IS THE TOTAL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE MADE AVAILABLE TO COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES IN 1958-59, WHICH AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN \$1,400 MILLION, BRINGING THE TOTAL SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE COLOMBO PLAN IN 1950 TO OVER \$6 BILLION. THE REPORT ALSO DESCRIBES THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL FLOW OF THEIR OWN RESOURCES WHICH THESE COUNTRIES ARE PUTTING INTO THEIR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

THE REPORT WAS PREPARED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH WAS HELD LAST NOVEMBER AT DJOGDJAKARTA, INDONESIA.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ATTENDED BY MINISTERS FROM COLOMBO PLAN COUNTRIES, WAS TO EVALUATE THE PROGRESS WHICH COUNTRIES IN THE COLOMBO PLAN AREA HAVE MADE IN THE PAST YEAR IN CARRYING FORWARD THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND TO DEFINE IN GENERAL TERMS THE MAGNITUDE AND SCOPE OF THE TASK THAT LIES AHEAD.

AMONG THE DECISIONS WHICH THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REACHED, THREE ARE OF SIGNIFICANCE: (1) THE CONFERENCE DECIDED TO EXTEND THE COLOMBO PLAN FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS BEYOND 1961, AND TO CONSIDER AT ITS 1964 MEETING A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE PLAN AFTER 1966; (2) SINGAPORE WAS ADMITTED TO FULL MEMBERSHIP TO ACCORD WITH ITS NEW CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS; AND (3) THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLOMBO PLAN WILL BE CELEBRATED IN 1961.