

Canada continued to provide assistance to NATO European countries in the form of military equipment, aircrew training, logistic support for material previously transferred, and contributions to NATO military and common infrastructure budgets. Approximately \$1,700,000,000 has been allocated for these purposes since 1950. After a peak of \$289,000,000 in 1953-54, the annual dollar value of the Canadian Mutual Aid Program declined to an estimated \$90,000,000 for the year ended Mar. 31, 1960. This decline was accounted for by the gradual depletion of Canadian surplus stocks of weapons and equipment, and by the successful completion in July 1958 of the full-scale NATO Air Training Plan carried out at RCAF establishments in Canada; under this training plan, started in 1950, over 5,500 pilots and navigators from ten member countries have been graduated. A limited number of aircrew from European countries are continuing their training in Canada under special agreements.

While changing conditions and requirements have gradually altered the magnitude and content of Canada's Mutual Aid Program, it continues to play an important role in the build-up of NATO military strength.

Subsection 4.—Canada and the Colombo Plan

The Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia was conceived at the Commonwealth Meeting of Foreign Ministers held at Colombo, Ceylon, Jan. 9-14, 1950. Although the Colombo Plan was initiated by Commonwealth Governments, it is not exclusively a Commonwealth program. It is designed to assist in the economic development of all countries and territories in the general area of south and southeast Asia. Its membership now includes Australia, British Borneo (North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak), Burma, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaya, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam, as well as the United States which is also engaged in a substantial program of economic aid in the same region.

The Colombo Plan is essentially a bilateral program, but a Consultative Committee of Foreign Ministers of the member countries meets once a year to review projects, exchange views on policy matters and prepare an annual report. It is, as its name implies, a "consultative" body; no collective policy decisions binding member countries are taken by its meetings. To develop the technical assistance side of the Plan, a Council for Technical Co-operation, on which Canada is represented, meets regularly in Colombo.

From the beginning of the Plan in 1950 through April 1960, Canada will have made available a total of \$281,670,000 for capital and technical assistance projects in south and southeast Asia. At the Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference held at Montreal in September 1958, Canada announced an increase from \$35,000,000 to \$50,000,000 in its annual contribution to the Colombo Plan over the following three years. In addition, Canada announced its intention to continue substantial financial assistance to less-developed countries in the form of loans and grants for Canadian wheat and flour.

While eleven separate countries have received capital assistance from Canada, the largest contributions so far have been made in India, Pakistan and Ceylon. The Canadian contribution has consisted primarily of direct assistance to various development projects (equipment for multi-purpose irrigation and hydro-electric projects, the Canada-India NRX atomic reactor, transportation equipment, fishing boats and surveys of resources). It has also included goods (wheat, flour, copper, aluminum and railway equipment) which the recipient governments have used as a means of raising some of the money needed to meet local costs of development programs. Canadian aid has been helping these countries to develop their economies and to raise their standards of living.

Under the Technical Assistance Programme, 1,308 persons from member countries had been received, up to Dec. 31, 1959, for training in Canada in a great variety of technical fields; 140 Canadian experts had been sent abroad for service in Colombo Plan countries in such fields as fisheries, refrigeration, marine biology, agriculture, soil erosion,