

Subsection 8.—Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was established in September 1961 as successor to the OEEC, with Canada and the United States joining the countries of Western Europe as full members of the new body. Japan, previously a member of the Development Assistance Committee, became, in May 1964, a full member of the OECD and the first member from outside Western Europe or North America. Its headquarters are in Paris.

The prime purpose of the OECD is to promote among member governments co-operation in the fields of economic policy, trade and assistance to developing countries, although it also provides a valuable forum for discussion of common problems in agriculture, industry, finance, technology and manpower policy. At the first Ministerial Council in 1961, member countries approved a growth target of 50 p.c. for the decade to 1970; at the half-way mark in 1966, this goal had been considerably exceeded. Because of its development from the former OEEC, the Organization was at first concerned largely with questions of primarily European interest but, as its membership expanded, it has become increasingly a recognized forum for broader consultation among advanced industrial countries, particularly on questions of economic and financial policy and on the problems of the developing countries. In this latter regard, the OECD now constitutes the main forum for consultations among developed countries concerning the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Development Board and its committees.

The OECD brings together government officials as well as representatives of private business, labour unions, universities and other non-governmental bodies in both deliberative and consultative capacities, and provides for international liaison among such groups. Within Canada, liaison has been established with the business community through the Canadian Business and Industry Advisory Committee, which was established in 1962 and comprises representatives of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Council of the International Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Parallel arrangements exist for consultation with Canadian labour organizations.

Subsection 9.—Canadian External Aid Programs

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, in January 1950. Although the Plan was initiated by Commonwealth governments, it is not exclusively a Commonwealth Program. It is designed to assist in the economic development and the raising of living standards of all countries and territories in the general area of South and Southeast Asia. Its membership includes Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldive Islands, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet-Nam and the United States; the latter is also engaged in a substantial program of economic aid in the same region. Iran and Singapore were admitted to membership in 1966.

The Colombo Plan is supervised by a Consultative Committee composed of Ministers of the member countries, who meet once a year to review projects and exchange views on policy matters. As a consultative body, it makes no collective policy decisions binding member countries; a Council for Technical Co-operation, on which Canada is represented, meets regularly in Ceylon to develop the technical co-operation program of the Plan. Consultative Committee meetings were held in Karachi in 1952, New Delhi in 1953, Ottawa in 1954, Singapore in 1955, Wellington in 1956, Saigon in 1957, Seattle in 1958, Jogjakarta in 1959, Tokyo in 1960, Kuala Lumpur in 1961, Melbourne in 1962, Bangkok in 1963, London in 1964 and Karachi in 1966. At the Jogjakarta meeting it was agreed to extend the Colombo Plan for another five years from June 1961, and it was similarly extended for a further five years at the London meeting in 1964. Reports of the Committee on progress and future plans are published after each annual meeting; each report also contains sections describing the activities of member countries.