



CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-10043

Expanded Number **CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-10043**

External ID **E/ICEF/1964/0491**

Title

Summary of Canadian Assistance Programmes in ECAFE Region Relating to Needs of Children-

Date Created / From Date

Date Registered

Date Closed / To Date

Primary Contact

Home Location **Off of Secy, ExecBoard, UNICEF NYHQ = 3024**

1/15/1964

1/1/1997

Owner Location **Off of Secy, ExecBoard, UNICEF NYHQ = 3024**

Current Location/Assignee **Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443 since 3/19/2001 at 4:02 PM**

F12: Status Certain? **No**

F13: Record Copy? **No**

d01: In, Out, Internal Rec or Rec Copy

Contained Records
Container

Date Published

Fd3: Doc Type - Format

Da1:Date First Published

Priority

Record Type **A04 DOC ITEM: E/ICEF 1946 TO 199**

Document Details **Record has no document attached.**

Notes

Document Format Series/Year/SubSeries/Number/Rev: E/ICEF/1964/0491; Doc

Series/SubSeries/Year/Number/Rev: E/ICEF/1964/491

Doc Series: E/ICEF; Series Valid date on import: 01-Jan-1946; Doc Year: 1964; Doc Number: 0491; Doc Numb

Short: 491; Doc Revision #:

English, L.Avail: E-?; L.Orig: E-?

Note PDF or TIF: Chk_PDF: No; Chk_PDF_Prob: No; Comment: ; Chk_TIF: No; Chk_TIF_prob: No; TIF ID# Start = ; TIF ID# end =

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ECONOMIC
AND
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DISTR.
GENERAL
E/ICEF/491
15 January 1964
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Executive Board

Summary of Canadian Assistance Programmes to Countries
in the ECAFE Region as They Relate to the Needs of Children and Youth

The Government of Canada participates in both bilateral and multilateral programmes of assistance in the ECAFE region as well as in developing countries in other regions. It is the Canadian belief that the two types of programmes are complementary, and that both have an important role to play in international economic and social development. It has been our experience that bilateral programmes are particularly suited to capital assistance projects. Thus, the Canadian bilateral programmes have been largely, though not exclusively, devoted to construction projects and the supply of large scale commodity aid and equipment. The Canadian bilateral programmes include: the Commonwealth Special African Aid Programme; the French-Speaking African Education Programme; the Commonwealth Technical Assistance Plan; participation in the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan; and the Colombo Plan. The last three programmes are the vehicles of Canadian Government bilateral aid in the ECAFE region. In addition, a considerable number of Canadian voluntary agencies and a provincial Government also have programmes in the region. The bulk of Canadian aid in this area is, however, channelled through the Colombo Plan and, therefore, these notes concentrate on that programme.

All Canadian Colombo Plan aid has been in the form of grants with no repayment of any kind involved. Of the total amount of \$423 million made available by Canada for assistance to countries in Asia under the Colombo Plan, approximately 96 per cent has been allocated for construction projects such as power plants, transmission lines, industrial and research plants, roads, bridges, and harbours, for the provision of industrial, agricultural and transport equipment as well as surveys and feasibility studies, and for commodity aid including food. The balance of Colombo Plan funds went to provide for the training in Canada of more than 2400 personnel from the ECAFE region and the sending of nearly 300 Canadian advisers to Asia.

(It might be noted that, owing to its bicultural heritage, Canada is in a special position to provide technical assistance for French-speaking developing countries in Asia and Africa; there are currently six French-speaking Canadian advisers at work in Cambodia and Laos, while there are one hundred and thirty-eight trainees from these countries and from South Vietnam studying in Canada.)

Because of the inter-relationship of all economic development programmes to social progress, any analysis of bilateral programmes as they relate to the work of UNICEF must necessarily be somewhat arbitrary. While all the above mentioned capital and technical assistance programmes relate indirectly

to the betterment of living conditions in Asia for children as well as adults, we summarize below projects of more direct concern to UNICEF, in the fields of nutrition, health services and social welfare, and education.

NUTRITION

The bulk of Canadian assistance under this heading has taken the form of shipments of wheat, flour and other foodstuffs to Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Pakistan. Project aid designed to increase food supplies and thereby improve nutrition has involved the provision of crop spraying aircraft and equipment, as well as biological control research stations, to India and Pakistan, dairy equipment to India, and pesticides and fertilizers to Pakistan. In addition, fisheries projects are under way in Ceylon and Malaysia. These are designed to increase fish catches and to improve handling and marketing facilities, thus helping to overcome a serious protein deficiency in the diets of some inhabitants of those countries.

Moreover, Canada has provided, as technical assistance, advisers to work in several countries in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and biology. Since 1950 Canada has trained over 280 Asian students in the various fields of agriculture and some 40 in fisheries.

EDUCATION

Canada has already provided technical education equipment for workshops in 30 post-primary and secondary schools in Malaysia and is currently discussing with the Malaysian Government the provision of all the workshop equipment required for the 50 new vocational and technical schools due to be built under Malaysia's second five-year plan. Canada and Malaysia are also jointly equipping and staffing the latter's first technical teacher training college.

The largest single group of Canadian advisers who have served in Asia has been concerned with the education of children, with particular emphasis on teacher training. In addition, many Asian teachers have studied in Canada.

HEALTH SERVICES AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Cobalt beam therapy units for the treatment of cancer have been supplied to 10 hospitals in Burma and India and another one will soon be supplied to Malaysia. Sets of medical books have been made available to 88 medical schools in Asia. A small fully equipped hospital, together with initial staffing, was provided in Warsak, Pakistan. Also in Pakistan, \$1 million was contributed to a refugee housing project.

In addition to Canadian advisers sent to Asia, in the fields of medicine, nursing and social welfare, Canadian institutions have trained 13 students in biochemistry, 5 in child physiology, 125 in social welfare, and 558 in

health services including a sizeable number in pediatrics, gynaecology, and obstetrics. (There has been particularly close co-operation between Canada and Thailand in this area; there are currently 15 Thais in Canada studying nursing, therapy, medicine, public health, child psychiatry and pediatrics.)

The Canadian government recently announced that it will seek parliamentary approval for a very substantial increase in its total foreign aid expenditures, beginning this year. The principal features of this will be higher contributions to countries in South and South East Asia; more comprehensive and sizeable programmes for Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean and for French and English speaking Africa; and, for the first time, a concerted contribution to Latin American development, in close co-operation with the Inter-American Development Bank, through a new low-interest loan programme. Thus, Canada is making a contribution through bilateral programmes in fields related to the work of UNICEF and, more generally, to the United Nations Development Decade.

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