EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

HOUSING AND TOWN FISHERIES FORESTRY PLANNING GEOLOGY INDUSTRIAL DEVEL-HEALTH SERVICES OPMENT AND Anaesthesiology MANAGEMENT IRON AND STEEL Bacteriology Cardiology INDUSTRY Dentistry LIBRARY SCIENCE **Genito-Urinary Surgery MATHEMATICS** Hospital Administration METEOROLOGY Microbiology MINING Neo-Natal Pathology Labour Safety Neuro-Pathology OPTICS Nutrition and Dietetics OIL AND GAS WELL CONSERVATION Nursing **Obstetrics & Gynaecol- OIL TECHNOLOGY** PALEONTOLOGY ogy PHOTOGEOLOGY Ophthalmology PHOTOGRAMMETRY Pediatrics Pharmacology PHOTOLITHOGRAPHY PHYSICS Physiology Psychiatry Nuclear Physics Public Health POLICE ADMINISTRA-TION Radiology Tuberculosis

PSYCHOLOGY Child Psychology PUBLIC ADMINISTRA-TION PUBLIC FINANCE PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES Journalism Radio Broadcasting PULP AND PAPER MANUFACTURE RAILWAYS RIVER SURVEY AND CONSERVANCY ROAD & RIVER TRANS-PORT SOCIAL WELFARE STATISTICS TELECOMMUNICA-TIONS THE MANUFACTURE OF FILMS FOR TEACH-ING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

I cannot too strongly emphasize the importance of this technical training to the whole area. As these countries in South East Asia develop, more and more they find themselves woefully short of every kind of technician. In this connection we must remember that they are very largely agricultural countries and that in their normal village life they have virtually no contact whatsoever with things mechanical. When mechanical contrivances, therefore, begin to move in, there is no trained body of technicians able to service them. In this same connection one must take into consideration the woeful lack of overall educational facilities for teaching even the three R's. I suppose over the whole area the illiteracy rate is 80 to 85 per cent, and in some areas must run as high as 90 per cent. Naturally this overall high rate of illiteracy makes teachers, particularly in the elementary grades, very difficult to find. The result is that many of the teachers used are poorly qualified. School equipment, textbooks and other school requisites are few and far between. Most of these countries, and certainly India, Pakistan and Ceylon, have set a goal of free compulsory education up to the age of fourteen or fifteen, but this goal is today more a hope than a realized fact. In the very poor districts enrolment in schools is low and a large number of the children who do enrol fall out because of the necessity of assisting their families-this is particularly so in rural areas. Also, these countries have very severe language problems. In their new burst of nationalism, they are inclined to emphasize their indigenous languages, in which there are very few textbooks. Actually language takes up far more time of children in schools in these countries than it does here. First the child must learn its mother tongue, then the national languages of its country, in Pakistan for instance Urdu, in India, Hindi. If it is a Moslem child, it must also learn Arabic so that it can study the Koran in the original; if a Hindu child in Hindu colleges, then it must learn Sanskrit so that it can study the Vedas.

It will be seen, therefore, that quite a lot of the child's time is taken up in these countries by language study, and if the child moves on to higher