

that each year Canada contributes more than twenty-five million dollars to the Colombo Plan. As the representative of a country, and as the representative of a nation benefiting from the aid, I know what the Colombo Plan means, and please believe me, I express the gratitude of my people for this example of the brotherhood of nations and the interdependence of mankind.

We are indeed grateful for all assistance which comes to us, from whatever quarter of the globe it may come. We struggled long for our national identity. We love that national identity, we hold that national identity dear as life itself. We aim, therefore, above all things, to maintain and preserve that national identity. I assure you in all seriousness: nothing will ever take that from us. No hope or promise of quick reward will persuade us to barter one scrap of our independence, for to us that independence, that national independence, is more precious than any other thing in this world.

Nationalism in Asia and Africa

When I first set foot in the United States, I expressed my hope of observing America, amongst other things, as a state of mind. It is important that Asia and Africa be seen as a state of mind. And what is that Asian and African state of mind? Essentially it is the determination that the nations of Asia and Africa develop their own national reality. I use the word "reality" advisedly, because a nation is a reality.

Who could doubt that, after observing the post-war world? In particular, perhaps, who could doubt that after observing the Asian and African Conference which was held in Bandung a year ago? That great and historic meeting of twenty-nine States showed clearly the path of history in this post-war and troubled world. Representatives of more than half mankind, pre-representatives of one billion six hundred million people, met together in one of Indonesia's mountain cities, and discussed problems common to them all.

Those national representatives of Asia and Africa discussed the basic problem of where their nations stood in this modern world. I know that it is not necessary for me to tell you of the result of that Conference. You know that a long and all-embracing resolution was unanimously adopted. That result answered the basic question of where those nations stood. It answered the question of what the peoples of Asia and Africa sought and desired. Those assembled representatives of the majority of mankind clearly expressed their opposition to colonialism in all its forms, that is a basic fact in the mid-twentieth century.

Above all things, this is the period of Asian and African nationalism. This is the era when the old conditions, the old and hated pattern of world society is undone. Who can be surprised by the fact that colonialism, whatever form it assumes, whatever mask it may hide behind, however it may disguise itself, is indeed a hateful and disgusting thing? I will tell you this: colonialism left Indonesia with a heritage of illiteracy, a heritage of human sickness, of human ignorance, of human degradation, which was a disgrace and a menace to the twentieth century. We had the highest illiteracy rate in the world. We had the highest mortality rate in the world. We had the lowest living standard in the world: one "goband" a day, two and a half guilder-cents a day—not even one dollar-cent a day. Our country was rich, but its wealth did not serve to alleviate the misery and ignorance of our people. Having achieved independence, we still feel the consequence of three hundred and fifty years of colonialism. And those consequences are not light ones.

Illiteracy, sickness which science has long known how to control, technical backwardness, great social inequality, great economic backwardness, were our