

knowledge and appreciations, which will lay the basis for great advances in the future and will provide a common passage to international understanding.

The nations of the world, through their membership in the United Nations and through their adherence to the principles of its Charter, have pledged themselves to a common effort not only to advance the cause of peace, but also to promote the social and economic betterment of all member nations and of the peoples which comprise them. There is an awareness today as never before in the world's history of the importance of international effort in the economic, social, health and cultural fields as a means of achieving the political goals and objectives which we, the nations and peoples of the world, have established for ourselves.

My own country has shown its consistent faith in the values of international collaboration in these fields through its support of programmes for social progress and the achievement of human rights; through its participation in and active support of the work of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, of UNICEF, the Social Commission, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, UNESCO, the Food and Agricultural Organization, and other bodies; through its support of Technical Assistance Programmes under United Nations auspices and under the Commonwealth's own Colombo Plan; and through its continuing interest in the development of economic and social collaboration within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Your countries, like mine, have demonstrated their faith in the positive results that can be achieved through collaboration by governments and by voluntary national and international associations in undertakings of the kind to which I have referred.

One of the common characteristics of the social welfare movement in virtually all countries is the high degree of partnership developed between public agencies on the one hand and private welfare organizations on the other. Social welfare leaders in all of our countries have long recognized the value of such co-operation.

What we have learned on the national level through experience in this co-operative effort, we are now beginning to apply in the field of international social action. One of the most promising areas for future collaboration at the international level, lies, I believe, precisely in the relationship now established between intergovernmental action provided by the various organs of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies on the one hand, and the collaboration of private international agencies, such as the International Conference of Social Work itself, on the other.

Now let me turn to the subject of our discussion this evening. You have chosen as the general theme for your deliberations this year SELF-HELP and COOPERATIVE ACTION in social welfare. You could hardly have chosen a more appropriate topic for discussion within the context of the undertakings carried on during the past