

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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### "SOUTH EAST ASIA AND THE COLOMBO PLAN"

Excerpts from a speech by Mr. Nik Cavell, Colombo Plan Administrator in Canada, to The Toronto Rotary Club, May 24, 1957.

...Since the dawn of civilization, man has fought hard and continuously to maintain his freedom. His enemies through the ages have been a horde of totalitarian dictators of many colours and creeds. The freedom we enjoy today has come to us through the medium of the broken bodies and minds of millions of incredibly brave men and women who have died in the torture chambers of these dictators. It has come to us through the dead and wounded of many wars, the latest being the two terrible World Wars we have been compelled to fight to defeat the domination of the latest would-be, world-dominating dictators. It comes to us through the tragic story of that magnificent, futile, recent fight of the people of Hungary using only their courage and their bare hands against the mighty tanks and guns of the world's latest form of the totalitarian dictator. This fight, gentlemen, and the freedom it has won for us is our greatest heritage.

I believe that human freedom is menaced today just as much as it has been through the ages but the menace today is more complicated, more difficult to comprehend and therefore less felt and realized than it has been in the past when the world was a less complicated place to live in.

The great question confronting us is; Are we going to be able to hand over to our children a world in which human freedom has been strengthened and in which it can continue to grow until all doubt of its ultimate survival has been wiped out? Or, are we, through inertia and lack of understanding, going to make it necessary for our children's children to pass through the hell of the dictator's torture chambers and endless wars to enable them to stay free as we are free today? The success of the free, democratic state rests in the end on the knowledge, understanding and common sense of its people.