

engaged professionally in the daily business of international affairs have no authority and no sanction for our discussions and our decisions apart from the desires and the hopes of the people whom we serve. In these discussions and decisions, our objectives should be the same as those of Rotary - the promotion of peace and goodwill. Rotary stands also for good neighbourly conduct, not only in purely personal relationships but also between communities within a country and between the nations of the world. There never was a time in history when the practice of good neighbourhood was more necessary.

It has become trite to point out that our globe has been shrinking. This is merely another way of saying that for all of us the area of our neighbourhood has been expanding; till now, for some purposes at least, it embraces the entire earth. Neighbourhood is to be measured in terms of the distance over which men and ideas and things can be readily and rapidly transported. But whatever its area, neighbourhood is only a fact. As far as our problem goes, it is only a starting point. The real question is whether we can match this expanding fact of neighbourhood with a corresponding increase in the area, and the depth, of good feeling of neighbourliness.

It is precisely here that great popular and international movements such as Rotary can make so great a contribution.

As the area of neighbourhood expands, from towns to states, from countries to continents, until it covers the world, so does the area of personal and national responsibility especially for those nations with greatest power.

Today the people of the United States are unquestionably the most powerful on earth. Their foes and detractors say that they have schemed to bring about this power and some even that they are plotting a new war to extend it. Their friends know that this is a grotesque falsehood; that there has never been a nation less grasping or ambitious for powers; or one which has discharged its global responsibility more unselfishly and less aggressively. We in the rest of the free world have reason to be deeply grateful that Americans have not shrunk from the burdens, moral and intellectual, as well as military and economic, which leadership always involves and which predominant power has now thrust upon them.

Good neighbourhood requires not only friendly contacts and the freest possible exchange of material things. It requires also the freest possible exchange of views and ideas.

International misunderstanding in fact is at its worst when the people of different nations have the greatest difficulty in exchanging ideas.

One obstacle of this kind of fruitful exchange is the fact that many words which enshrine noble ideas have now been tortured and abused by communists until they have become far removed from their original and true meaning. They have suffered a terrible battering in the propaganda of the cold war. This makes it all the more necessary to reaffirm precisely what we mean and do not mean by certain words and expressions which have fallen into ignoble and distorted use. Words in themselves have a power - and they can be dangerous as weapons. We should do our best to prevent their use and meaning from becoming corrupt.