

variety of fields related to economic development. We in Canada attach particular importance to our contact with students, teachers, professional men and administrators who have come to Canada from the Colombo Plan area to see what we are doing in fields in which they are active in their own countries. Such personal communications are of value not only because they encourage an exchange of technical knowledge, but also because of the contributions they make to the development of understanding and mutual respect.

That is an important factor in our co-operative efforts. Beyond the immediate benefits arising from personal relations between our peoples, there are broader benefits which, in due course, we may expect to share. As the development of our joint programmes bear fruit, and as the economies of the countries in South and South-East Asia move forward with increasing momentum, the demand generated by increases in national wealth in this region will certainly provide a significant stimulus to world trade. In this, all countries, developed and less-developed alike, may expect to participate and from it they may all expect to benefit. In the broad perspective, therefore, the fortunes of the developed and less-developed countries are linked towards the goal of prosperity and a richer life for their people, not only in human terms but in economic terms as well.

Substantial progress in economic development has already been achieved, but much remains to be done. I think also that sometimes we have a tendency, a very understandable but nonetheless potentially dangerous tendency, in taking a justifiable pride in our achievements, to gloss over the setbacks we have met. It is well, therefore, to pause from time to time as we are proposing to do this week, to take a searching look at our plans and programmes. I think the draft report which we are now considering does well to draw attention to some of the difficulties which have arisen or have become more acute since we last met. However, it also reflects the increasing experience in countries represented at this meeting in understanding the nature of these difficulties and in working out ways to deal with them. There is, for example, increasing recognition of the need to ensure that technical skills are developed at a rate sufficient to make the most effective use of the capital and natural resources available. There is increasing recognition, too, of the fact that industrial development does not in itself ensure a sound and prosperous economy; obviously it must be meshed into a well-balanced development programme. For example, as the draft report points out, agriculture must, in much of the Colombo Plan area and for some time to come, provide the major part of employment and income.