

Chinese "military co-operation". We have also been disturbed by statements that seem in our minds to confuse the defence of Korea, which has been assumed by the United Nations, with the defence of Formosa, which has not; statements that have even implied--somewhat mistakenly I think--that those who wish to draw at this time a distinction between the two operations are defeatists and appeasers. So far as this government is concerned, we are concerned solely with carrying out our United Nations obligations in Korea or elsewhere. These obligations do not, as I understand them at the present time, include anything that can be interpreted as the restoration of the Nationalist Chinese government to the mainland of China; or an intervention in Formosa.

We should do our part, then, to defeat aggression in Korea, so that the lesson of the failure of aggression there can be learned elsewhere where it needs to be learned. We should also speed our military preparations so that we may hope to be able to defeat any similar acts of aggression which, if the above lesson is not learned, may break out elsewhere, and we can never hope to do that alone. The programme of defence expansion on which we are embarked will inevitably involve an increased effort here in Canada which we must be prepared to make. I suppose it may also involve some postponement in achieving some of the peaceful goals towards which we have been working. But we must not lose sight of those goals or abandon our efforts to reach them. Nothing would suit the communist book better than for the western democracies to become slow and sluggish under the weight of armaments, to grow a thicker and thicker skin, to atrophy by degrees, and at length to become extinct like the dinosaurs.

To succeed in the struggle in which we are engaged, we of the western democracies must be true to the principle of growth and progress which is part of our nature and of our strength. For one thing, it is always harder to hit a moving target. We have in the past prospered and grown because we have been open to change and have been willing to adapt ourselves to new ideas and altered circumstances. Only by continuing as we have begun can we and our friends save ourselves from servitude and destruction. We will do well, therefore, I suggest, to see that our genuine preoccupation with the present military dangers does not bring our social progress to a standstill. Military defence must come first, of course; but social and economic progress is also a part of defence. To relate the two here and to relate the two in other free countries will mean one of the greatest balancing acts in history, and will certainly require steady nerves, a high degree of concentration, and much hard work.

Furthermore, just as we have learned slowly and painfully the dangers of great economic gulfs between various sections of our own country, now we must begin to learn the parallel lesson that it is dangerous to let such gulfs exist between various countries without doing anything to try to narrow them. That effort must be spread over many generations; but a start should be made, and now a start is being made. For just as it is impossible to have a healthy society in any one country if some individuals are living below the level of subsistence, so it is impossible to have a healthy world society when whole nations are subject to starvation and disease. Throughout large areas of Asia, such conditions now exist. Where they exist, they are natural breeding grounds for communism. These malarial swamps of poverty must somehow be drained off if we are ever to see stability and freedom in the