

of the extent of the Bank's loans and the work it has done in a very business-like and extremely helpful way.

That, I think, gentlemen, about sums up the aid to underdeveloped countries in South and South-East Asia being given by the major aid agencies of the West. But we must also mention the work being done by agencies such as the Ford Foundation; by universities, particularly some in the United States which have undertaken to aid some particularly poor ones in South-East Asia and have taken them under their wing; then there are the Rockefeller and Carnegie Foundations also doing their bit.

Confucius once said; "An empty stomach does not dwell on high principles", and the first task facing the Governments of South-East Asia is to feed, house and clothe their poor people. As civilized and compassionate human beings, we can only be appalled at the poverty, economic uncertainty and disease from which so many of them suffer today. Through plans such as the Community Projects Scheme in which the better-educated young people go out into villages to teach peasants better ways of living and farming, they are waking up their people to the attainment of better living. We cannot rehabilitate these people; we can only give assistance to their governments in doing the job.

Two great experiments are going on; in China, roughly 600 million people are trying to raise their living standard by following the ways of Russia; in India, roughly 400 million people are trying to do the same by parliamentary democracy. The whole of Asia is watching these two countries to see which will do the most for its people in the shortest time. We dare not let democracy fail. We cannot build a strong free world unless we can make it habitable for the millions of Asia who have not yet made a final choice.

I shall close this talk, as I have many others, by letting one of the greatest philosophers of our time say it all so much better than I can possibly do - Alfred North Whitehead in one of his many profound books said this;

"Every age has its character determined by the way its populations react to the material events they encounter. This reaction is determined by their basic beliefs, by their hopes, their fears, their judgments of what is worth while.

They may rise to the greatness of an opportunity, seizing its drama, perfecting its art, exploiting its adventure, mastering intellectually and physically, the network of relations that constitute its being. On the other hand, they may collapse before the perplexities confronting them. How they act depends upon their courage and their intellectual grasp."