

context, the frame of mind required to adapt to and to overcome them, display remarkable insight and understanding. *Gringos From the Far North* should be required reading not only for all Canadian missionaries (and businessmen also) going to Latin America but for all foreign service personnel, who in their own way should be missionaries for Canada.

A well-structured appendix embodying the text of a report entitled "The Extent, Focus, and Changes of Canadian Public Interest in Latin America", which Professor Ogelsby was commissioned to undertake for the Department of External Affairs in 1967, rounds out the book effectively. It includes a useful comparative study (Pages 328-331) of French-speaking and English-speaking Canadian attitudes

towards Latin America. A discerning comparative study of the adaptability to Latin America of French-speaking and English-speaking Canadian Catholic missionaries also to be found in Chapter 8 (Pages 204-206).

If there is a general lesson to be drawn from Dr. Ogelsby's book, it is that Canada's most successful ventures in Latin America, whether commercial, religious or other, have been conducted by men and women who made an effort to adapt to the local society, who learnt its language and had a genuine understanding of and interest in its problems, needs and aspirations.

Ogelsby, J. C. M., *Gringos From the Far North*, Toronto, Macmillan, 1976.

Letter to the Editor

India...

Sir,

Reference David Van Praagh's article "Change in Asia as eras end offers hope through realism" in the March/April 1976 number of *International Perspectives*.

The eminent Southeast Asian expert is accurate neither in his facts nor in his prophecies. For example, he says: "Japan will not ratify the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in the foreseeable future." Japan has, of course, ratified the treaty.

The Army in India has always remained aloof from politics. Nevertheless, as long ago as 1967, in a number of despatches, Mr. Van Praagh predicted an Army *coup* in India and now suggests that a bad monsoon might bring this on. India has had successive droughts in 1965-66, 1966-67 and again in 1972-73 and 1973-74, but the predictions have happily been belied. It is extraordinary, therefore, that not only are these prophecies repeated but the author suggests that Army intervention is one possible salvation for India; so much for his dedication to democracy. Then a fantastic panacea is advocated by him: fragmentation of the country with various states becoming independent. This shows not merely an utter disregard of Indian background and history but also a deliberate ignoring of economic and geographical realities; it is like suggesting that, because there is a linguistic problem in Canada and differences between provinces and the Federal Government on some issues, Canada should be carved up into a dozen separate states. Would either a congeries of independent states in India or Canada be viable economically or strategically and, even less, serve the cause of peace?

No constitution is immutable, and experience showed that certain aspects of the Indian Constitution needed amendments to bring about badly-needed and long-delayed changes. These do not constitute a destruction of democracy or the Constitution, which Prime Minister Gandhi has said is basically sound. There is no erosion of democracy in India, but merely an evolution that is universal and applicable even to developed countries with so-called ancient traditions of liberal democracy. Addressing the Twenty-first Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Delhi last October, the Prime Minister said: "In the last 25 years we have withstood more than one military challenge, economic crisis and threat of secession. Our five general elections have demonstrated the value of the free vote and the maturity of our electorate (which, in the 1971 Parliamentary election, numbered 274 million). The people have voted for secularism even though