

to give the people of other parts of Canada a sense of proximity to Asian developments.

The change which has come with such suddenness in Canada's outlook towards Asia has been produced first of all by our realization that an act of aggression anywhere in the world may be a menace to freedom everywhere. It has been borne in upon us that this principle applies with full force to events in Asia as well as to events in other continents. It was because that principle was recognized by our people that the Canadian Government was able to move quickly to send troops to Korea when the Communists attacked in the spring of 1950.

Clearly the countries of the free world must be prepared, if need be, to meet force with force in Asia as well as elsewhere. But it has become equally clear that, if the West is to be successful in preventing the Asian countries which are still free from falling prey to Soviet imperialism, force will not be enough. We must try to understand the great changes that are taking place in the East and then express our understanding in practical terms. Throughout Asia there is a growing determination not only to win complete independence but also to break the shackles of poverty and disease and of the hopelessness which they breed. The thirst for a better life cannot be slaked by military alliances, necessary as those may be in particular situations. It can be satisfied only if Western countries co-operate in helping the governments of the free countries of Asia to bring to their peoples some of the advantages that we of the West enjoy because of the rich resources with which we have been blessed and because of our scientific discoveries and technical advances. The task of raising the standards of living of the masses of the East is immense. It cannot be accomplished overnight. But that is no reason for apathy or delay. We in North America boast of our competitive system. Let us make no mistake. In the East we are engaged in a competitive race of extreme importance. If the countries of Asia which have fallen under Communist domination can make more impressive material progress than their neighbours who are receiving help from the West, the balance of power throughout that whole area may be tilted even more dangerously against us.

Apart from the efforts of Asians themselves, the most important factor in this struggle is the aid that is being provided by the United States. But we in Canada are also prepared to shoulder our share of the responsibility. During the past three years the Canadian Parliament has appropriated some \$80 million for economic development in South and Southeast Asia under what is known as the Colombo Plan. This scheme, initiated under Commonwealth auspices now comprehends most of the countries in the area and is already beginning to bear fruit. In our opinion it is an enterprise of the highest importance and one which must not be allowed to fail.

It is almost inevitable that in these remarks I should have stressed -- perhaps over-stressed -- Canada's growing self-confidence and strength and, in particular, the contributions we are making to the cause of freedom. To restore a sense of proportion, let me make it clear that we Canadians know quite well that our country is far from being a great power; and we have no aspirations to such stature. Let me also make it clear how fully we realize what all the world owes to the United States. Never in history has a nation been called so quickly to take up the crushing responsibilities