

This understanding can surely best be achieved by using the United Nations more and more as the clearing house for all forms of such assistance; as a place where plans can be discussed and related to each other; where purposes can be clarified and, if necessary, exposed. Where, on the other hand, suspicions can be removed when they are unjust and unwarranted.

This does not mean that bilateral aid such as Point IV, or aid under such arrangements as the Colombo Plan, should be abandoned, or taken over by the United Nations. That would be unnecessary and undesirable as well as politically unrealistic. But the United Nations should be brought more and more into the picture, and all its members pressed to accept their full responsibility. In this way, as Mr. Hammarskjold put it, we may find "a sound basis for the reconciliation of the natural national interest with valid international considerations."

But why bother at all? Haven't we enough to do at home? I could spend an hour or so on this question. Here I can only say that while the element of goodwill and neighbourliness does enter into these matters, as it does in their domestic manifestations, equally or more important is the long-term consideration of our own enlightened self-interest.

Today we all want peace; more anxiously, perhaps, than ever before, because the alternative could be total annihilation. But we are not always willing to do the things or make the sacrifices that ensure peace. Are we willing to accept, for instance, the proposition that there will be no peace in this small world if it consists of Presidential areas surrounded by slums."

The domestic analogy applies here. Every free democratic government today accepts the fact - and most of them act on it - that national stability, welfare and progress are not possible if the poor are allowed to get poorer while the rich get richer. Inequalities and deprivations that are considered intolerable mean unrest, ferment and ultimate explosion.

The same result will inevitably and inexorably occur internationally, if hundreds of millions of people feel condemned indefinitely to an existence below or on the edge of subsistence; hopeless and helpless and bitter; the easy victims for extreme ideas and extremist agitators.