

welfare programmes within our respective nations are, in effect, community or national systems of mutual aid by which we pool our domestic resources to supplement, where necessary, the efforts of the individual through self-help to find his normal place in our society.

If this be true of our closely-knit family structure, of our community and national life where the sense of mutual brotherhood and interdependence, of being bound together in common fortune or misfortune, has for centuries been part of the life blood of our culture and our traditions, how much more true must it be of the world society which we are now considering, and of the international social welfare efforts by which the nations of the world are endeavouring together to provide a measure of mutual aid to supplement the self-help efforts of the less developed peoples!

This plant of international co-operation in the social welfare field which we are nurturing and feeding, is a young and tender growth. It has not yet taken firm and solid root in the minds and hearts and consciences of the peoples of the world. It is all the more important, therefore, for the success of our common, world-wide effort to achieve social progress, that the peoples of the less-developed countries realize and fulfil their obligation to achieve the maximum of progress through their own initiative and resources in order to ensure that mutual aid and technical assistance - the obligation of the more favoured nations - will be continued and extended to the benefit of all concerned.

The stakes at issue today are as high as they have ever been for all humanity. Abraham Lincoln fought for a united nation on the firm belief that his country could not exist half slave and half free. In our day, we can hardly expect a high degree of international unity so long as the peoples of the world continue to exist half slave and half free. Starvation and pestilence and ignorance cannot afflict the millions of Africa, Asia and Latin America without casting their blight also on those parts of the world where the institutions of political and social democracy have flourished and which have achieved the highest degree of economic and social advance.

The favoured nations of the world cannot afford to ignore the fact that one half of the world's inhabitants live in areas where hunger, disease, poverty and human misery are the daily lot of all the people. They cannot continue to live comfortably, in the knowledge that one out of every two persons alive today is simply not getting enough to eat; that one person in eight suffers from malaria; that infant death rates in some sections of some countries rise as high as 400 for every thousand children born.

These are ugly, dangerous facts about the Twentieth Century which so often has been heralded as an age of social progress. They have all too obvious implications.

The conscience of millions of men and women have in recent years been aroused to work towards creating a happier, more prosperous, and better world