

carry out these programmes. And it was also recommended that a Commonwealth programme of technical assistance should be established immediately to supplement the United Nations programme. In regard to the second of these objectives, it was decided to commence a Commonwealth Technical Assistance scheme which is expected to cost about eight million pounds sterling over a period of three years, and contributions are already being made by Commonwealth countries. I should point out also that in the decisions which were taken at this conference, it was recognized that the Commonwealth countries of Southeast Asia were not the only ones which needed technical assistance, and an invitation has been issued to othersto associate themselves in any programme which is being worked out. I think that both in the short run and in the long run this Commonwealth programme may contribute very materially to the major task of sustaining the standard of living, and with it the democratic way of life, in the new democracies.

Mr. Huizinga, in the quotation which I read from his article on the Commonwealth, referred to it as an alumni association. The important thing about an alumni association is not, after all, how it is organized, or who its vice-presidents are. The essential question is whether, when the college gymnasium catches fire, the alumni who live nearby are sufficiently interested to turn out and man the hoses, and those who live at some distance are sufficiently interested, when the fire is out, to put up the cash for a new roof on the building. As you consider during the week ahead the question of regional organizations, I suggest that you recall that the nations of the Commonwealth, after all, constituted the only group which was engaged continuously in the war against Hitler from its outbreak in 1939 to its conclusion in 1945. I would ask you also to consider the governments other than the United States which, in the crisis which has recently occurred in Korea, responded to the resolution of the Security Council of the United Nations, not only on paper, but actually by moving men or material in response to the emergency. They are not all Commonwealth countries, nor are all the Commonwealth countries included, but the list of Commonwealth countries that have acted positively in this crisis is revealing and significant. If you approach your consideration of the Commonwealth from this point of view, although you may come to the conclusion that it is not really a regional organization at all in any proper sense of that term, you will also conclude that it is one of the genuinely effective instruments which we have at hand for the preservation of peace and in the development of the free world.

---

S/c