

More immediately promising than SUNFED is the proposed International Finance Corporation, which seems likely to be established in the near future in association with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with a capital of some one hundred million dollars.

During the last several thousand years of human history wide-spread ferments of ideas producing among peoples a demand for social changes have been the exception, both in time and place, rather than the rule. But today it is a fact that such a ferment is spreading throughout Asia, Latin America and the Middle East; it is beginning to spread, too, among the peoples of Africa. Its manifestations are sometimes far from pretty. But it is I suggest the biggest single political fact in the world today. It creates problems and challenges which are far more fundamental, and which will remain with us, long after our differences with the Russians have subsided (providing we and the Russians survive these differences, that is!). It is important to maintain a sense of proportion, and to recognize the limits to how much can be done, or how fast. But it is important, too, to realize that our generation of humanity has on its agenda, and with increasing insistence, this problem of the advancement of the under-developed areas.

Internationally as well as nationally, ideas of economic levelling are sometimes entertained. But internationally at least, such ideas are of course profoundly silly, though that does not mean that they could not some day become both widespread and dangerous. You could not make much impression on the standard of living of the backward areas merely by lowering that of the more advanced: nor could such an impression last. The real problem is to increase the productivity of the men and women in the backward areas. This inevitably involves major changes for them in the cultural, psychological, social and political fields as well as the economic: for these things go together. And though there are obvious and important limits to what outsiders, such as we Westerners, can do to help in that process, there is no doubt that we can do something, and that we are increasingly being asked and expected to do it.

It is good for us to recall that there are basically two ways to industrialize. One is what I call the hard way. It involves obtaining the capital by a reduction in the amount consumed by your own people. This is what happened in Britain in the latter part of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th. Britain industrialized first, and there was no other way in which capital could be produced. At the cost of the enclosure movements, the development of terrible slums, and inhumanly long hours of work for the new industrial labouring class, including its children, Britain developed the factory system. By contrast we in North America industrialized