

any elements which wish to deal with the world as it in fact exists rather than as Marxist dogma pictures it. We must also be prepared, however, for the contingency that no such elements do exist, at least in a form seriously to influence policy.

This process of testing - of examination and discovery may be a long and difficult one. During it there is an obligation for NATO to maintain itself in readiness to deal with any emergency, military or diplomatic. By doing so, by steadfastly maintaining its basic purposes, and by demonstrating to the world that its continued existence is essential to the future of free men, it can play a vital part in leading the way forward from the bleak prospects of "cold war", or of a harshly "competitive co-existence", to the more distant horizons of world co-operation.

There is one other problem that I would like to mention, which those words, "world co-operation", bring to mind. It is that of international economic assistance. The problem here is to reconcile our obligations to the international community with those to our own people, to whom a government owes its first duty. But it is more than that. It is a problem, not only of what to do (and no country in the world has ever done as much as this country); but of how and why to do it.

The need for assistance to those countries which have not shared in our industrial and technical advances is real and demanding. It will never be satisfactorily met, however, merely by pouring in assistance in a form which, economically, may be a way of putting people on the dole; politically, may give rise to suspicion that there are strings attached to it; and technically, is beyond the capacity of the receiving peoples to administer effectively.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations uttered some wise words on this subject the other night when he said:

"We should not forget that it may be more difficult to live on the dole than to pay it. Few friendships survive a long drawn-out economic dependency of one upon the other. Gratitude is a good link only when it can be given and received without an overtone of humiliation."

A cynic might doubt whether gratitude, so often a "lively anticipation of favours to come", is a good link at all. The feeling of mutual assistance and co-operative effort is surely better. But that requires careful and sensitive planning; a clear understanding of why you are helping and are being helped.