

which are believed to oppress non-European peoples either inside or outside of their own borders. In addition to this reputation for objectivity, Canadians have also acquired a reputation for being good negotiators. In particular they are expected not to put forward strong views of their own, but to act as honest brokers, seeking to reconcile the views of other parties.

Now that we have left the Security Council we ought to find new scope for our talents. We are not members of the Trusteeship Council, and in view of the strong permanent Commonwealth representation on that body, we are unlikely ever to be elected. This conflict over non self-governing territories, however, exists within the Commonwealth, and a Commonwealth Conference such as that to take place at Colombo might provide an opportunity for seeking some understanding. The seriousness of the problem cannot be under-estimated. It is the subject on which the countries of the Commonwealth are most divided and it could provide the seeds of discord which would lead to disruption.

The primary necessity seems to be some kind of understanding between India and the United Kingdom. Of all the countries which have raised their voice in favour of increasing the obligations of the Administering Authorities, India and Pakistan are perhaps the most honest and responsible. It is difficult to see what kind of agreement can be reached at this stage between India, Pakistan and Ceylon on the one hand, and the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa on the other. In the absence of agreement, however, there might at least be greater understanding. I may be quite wrong, but I have the impression that the Indians and the British have never really thrashed out these matters frankly. It is true that the Indians and their friends have supported demands which are entirely contrary to our principles of responsible government and which the Administering Authorities could not accept. Surely, however, some, at least, of the objections could be explained to the Indians and compromises worked out which would assure the Indians that there was no interference with the progress of non-self-governing peoples to independence. What I fear is that the British, unless the attitude in Whitehall has changed since I left London, still look upon all critics of their colonial policy as tiresome and ignorant people to whom it is scarcely worth while explaining the facts of life.

Under these circumstances the situation would seem to be right for some kind of Canadian initiative at Colombo. This is a Commonwealth problem which cannot be ignored and there is really no other disinterested member of the Commonwealth than ourselves. The Australians and New Zealanders, although they themselves have trusteeship responsibilities, have, because of their general inclinations, been in the past able to promote compromise. Unfortunately, however, the new Governments in both those countries may be expected to be much more rather than much less adamant than the United Kingdom.

The differences of opinion on trusteeship matters are not confined to any one particular issue, although the focus of the controversy seems to be the Special Committee which examines the information submitted by the Administering Authorities on Non Self-Governing Territories. The functions of this Committee were so broadened at the past Session that the Special Committee is approaching a