

issues of which we have been speaking, can be channelled into moderate and constructive lines. For if politics is "the art of the possible", we can see no good coming from demands which are patently impossible, no matter how many votes they may gain. We live in a troubled world, and we must all take that fact into account in what we ask and when we ask it.

Much will undoubtedly be said in our debates about justice. I should like to conclude this section of my remarks with a quotation from that great book of Islamic knowledge, the Mathnawi. I cannot pretend to my Muslim friends that I am conversant with the Mathnawi but I was very much taken by what it says about justice. It says that to give water to a tree is just, but to give water to a thorn is not. At this Assembly, we might also consider the appropriateness and the usefulness, for the purposes and principles of the United Nations, of giving our time and our place to discussions that can never bear fruit but only thorns.

By no means all of our problems in this general field will be political. We shall also be discussing very practical and pressing economic problems - how to feed the mounting populations of Asia, how to pick the fruits of the earth from land at present bearing only thorns. With the dissolution of most of the old political relationships by the sometimes overhasty action of that powerful solvent, nationalism, new ways of meeting the perennial problems of economic development must be found. The United Nations has an important place, I believe, in working out and applying experimental solutions for these new relationships between countries which happen to be more developed - not so much in natural resources as in "know-how", - and those which are in need of development and as yet lack the resources both of capital and skill to develop themselves unaided at the pace demanded by their peoples.

And so in this effort to aid in raising the standards of undeveloped nations, my country has played and will continue to play its part. We sympathize most earnestly with the picture that has been painted by several speakers of the poverty and the distress that afflict so much of the world. We have made our contribution to the generous and promising schemes of assistance that have already been inaugurated. We are interested above all in the programs of technical assistance with which we are already associated. We are profoundly aware that much of the poverty in other regions springs not from a lack of resources, but from a lack of the technical knowledge and ability that would enable the peoples of those countries to develop their own resources for their own benefit. We believe that it is through the sharing of the technical knowledge which has brought such striking advances to the western world that other regions of the earth can themselves develop along the same path and toward the same goal. We recognize that where local resources are inadequate, a measure of financial assistance may still be necessary while this process is being brought into play. But in the interests of the under-developed countries themselves, and particularly of their independence, economic as well as political, we believe that the most effective form of help is the self-help which an advance in technical knowledge will bring about.

The under-developed countries need what the late President Roosevelt used to refer to, when speaking of another emergency, as "priming the pump". As the Prime Minister of Canada recently said when speaking of the Colombo Plan, we hope "not only to raise the living standards of the people benefiting from it but that it will also build up enough confidence in their countries to prime such a flow of foreign and domestic investments that prosperity will come to the entire southern part of Asia".