

this part of the world, we Canadians have much to learn about Asian affairs. It is now clear that not only the welfare of the people of Asia, in which we are deeply interested, but also the welfare of the whole world may depend to a very considerable extent on what happens in Asia. We, therefore, watch events here closely. And I hope the views we have expressed from time to time and the actions we have taken have been of assistance to those who are labouring to bring peace and stability to this part of the world.

I also believe that we have demonstrated to the people of Asia that we want to be their friends. Our Colombo Plan assistance, which has so far gone largely to India, Pakistan and Ceylon, is beginning to flow to other parts of South and Southeast Asia. We have twice -- in the Second World War and recently in Korea -- joined in helping to repel aggression in Asia. And, sympathizing with the aspirations of Asian peoples, we have exerted our influence, and are continuing to exert it, in the direction which, so far as is humanly possible, will give Asian countries that voice in the settlement of Asian problems and that control over their own destinies which is theirs by right.

Canada's growing interest in Asia and Asian problems reflects the contraction of the modern world and the fundamental changes which have taken place in recent years in Asia's relations with the West. To the extent that we have come to realize that the welfare of all parts of the world is interdependent a new concept of world-wide partnership has evolved. You in Asia are inevitably concerned with what happens in Europe or North America just as we are concerned with what happens here.

We Canadians have a deep distaste for the disruptive tactics which those with totalitarian ambitions often employ, and we abhor aggression from whatever quarter it may arise. We know how disturbing such forces must be to those who like ourselves require an untroubled period in which to build for the future.

In thinking about Asia, however, we try to retain a sense of perspective. We perceive that most nationalist movements in modern times are essentially a reaction against feudalism or foreign rule; and we understand the desire of Asian leaders to concentrate on developing a way of life which will answer their peoples' needs in new conditions of national and individual freedom. We realize that many Asian countries, though old in the arts of civilization, are young as independent states of the twentieth century model, and are faced with staggering problems as they strive to build stable societies for hundreds of millions of people, many of whom have been all too familiar with distress and want.

While we do not presume to prescribe a political or economic philosophy for Asians we are particularly attracted by the Indian approach which seeks material progress through the free effort of the people. The wisdom of this approach was emphasized in a statement which your Prime Minister made just over a year ago when he said, "We have decided to build India according to democratic methods because, ultimately, we feel that democracy has something of the highest human value." We applaud India's vision and courage in making this splendid effort, and we watch with sympathy the fine efforts of many other Asian governments to work out satisfactory solutions to their problems. When