

There are moments, in this age of hydrogen and hate, where man has conquered the atom, but not himself, when one begins to despair even of such survival. Yet, it would be folly to take refuge from our fears in a cynical rejection of all effort, as impossible to the point of absurdity, which is designed to bring about world brotherhood. It is tempting, as it has been put, for "The embittered idealist, in terror of further disillusionment, to retreat from life to rock in the cradle of each passing sensation". It is a temptation which should be rejected by individuals and by governments. There is no cause for despair over the possibility of brotherhood being forever destroyed by bombs. Man faced with the sad memories and the grim consequences of his failure to live peacefully with other men, has many times accepted as inevitable a doom that he has somehow managed to escape. So it may be this time.

I, myself, had an experience last autumn which persuaded me that we are, in fact, enlarging and extending the boundaries of international brotherhood. I was visiting India and Pakistan, among other things to inspect the co-operative work of Canada with those countries under the Colombo Plan; a plan which is providing not only material help for peoples who need that help, but also a bridge of understanding and friendship between our Western world and that of free Asia

There are at least three valid reasons why we should co-operate with these free Asian countries in such mutual aid. One is a sincere humanitarian desire on the part of those who are materially more favoured to help those who are less. The second is the recognition that it is our own interest to live in a world where prosperity is more universal; that the more quickly other people's standard of living can rise, the better off all of us will be. The third, is the hope that economic aid can serve the cause of peace; because the stronger any free nation is, the less chance there is of aggression and war.

It is important, however, to guard against the idea that we can purchase or should try to purchase allies in that part of the world. Communist propaganda is insinuating this interpretation throughout Asia, and it is important to give it the lie. The East will not become a mercenary in our ranks. It would be deplorable if Asians believed that Westerners had insulted their dignity, or misread their independence, by entertaining such notions.

If we of the West provide material aid only or primarily for cold-war motives, we are likely to fail in achieving any good and permanent result. If, however, we help out of a recognition of brotherhood, with our free Asian neighbours, then we shall succeed in improving the political atmosphere as well as in promoting human welfare. Good-will is contagious.