

United Nations

technical assistance to many countries, especially with respect to economic development. That is not all. Canada contributed to the reconstruction of South Korea and to many other projects which could be classified as technical assistance.

I do not think it is necessary to elaborate much more. The facts I have given make it clear that the policy of Canada is in accordance with the one adopted by the United Nations. I am sure that is still the policy of the government, and in my opinion, it is the right one. Of course it would be unfair to our people, at a time when we are building up the defences of our country and establishing an organization to assure peace and security to the whole world, to increase too much our contribution to technical assistance.

We must bear in mind that industrial countries, and Canada is one, provide the biggest share of the money required by the fund to bring technical assistance to underdeveloped nations. Every citizen in Canada is in favour of it. Every citizen is well aware of his duty to people living in the underdeveloped world. Every citizen realizes that such technical assistance is a path to peace, freedom and security. There is only one restriction to our will to give more and that is a restriction which concerns ourselves—our own protection, our own development, our own security.

In conclusion may I say that I hope our prosperity will last forever, and that it will be possible soon to draw larger amounts of money from our taxpayers for these huge populations living in vast areas, which need so much when we are limited to giving so little. Let us then give what is stronger than money, the spiritual spark of an old civilization bound to survive only if we, as free men, are able to show that progress derives more from moral strength than from the bulge of capital investment.

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, there used to be a saying in my childhood applied to people of my race who had a habit of talking of themselves: "Here's to ourselves. Who's like us?" As I listened to the speaker who has just taken his seat I realized that that was not entirely a Scottish characteristic. I really must decline his invitation to join in his paeans of praise about Canada's contribution to technical assistance and to the Colombo plan. I must do that because he spoke on behalf of all Canadians who I am quite sure view this with what he considered pardonable pride.

I was pleased to hear the minister of external affairs take part in the debate and also say that he considered this question one of the most important facing the world today.

I think that is the only way it can be regarded. We spend a great deal of time in this chamber on matters that seem of world-shaking importance, but I have an idea that when this particular era of history is viewed in perspective the most important question will be, what did the people of North America do with regard to the situation of the vast majority of the human race?

Several reasons for taking this action have been advanced this afternoon. It has been suggested to us that it is an alternative to other and more conventional defence mechanisms. It has been suggested to us that it is a way to promote world peace. I suppose one could suggest also that it might lead to greater economic stability for us at home.

One of the troubles that face us at the present time, in the middle of the twentieth century, is the unfortunate habit we have acquired of dashing about the economic and social scene fastening neat little notices on various features of it which in our innocence we imagine explain the situation that we are labelling. We are told that this would be an excellent way in which to fight communism. It is suggested quite often that the major feature in recent years of the development in Asiatic countries has been their unfortunate tendency to swing toward totalitarian communism.

I am going to suggest that that is altogether too easy a simplification. What is about to take place in those parts of the world is a process which took place in the western world some century and a half or two centuries ago. I refer to the accumulation of capital. In fact that is a fundamental requisite for the development of anything in the nature of a high material level of civilization.

We in North America have certain rather unique responsibilities with regard to other peoples in the world who are now facing this necessity of accumulating capital. There are only two ways in which people can accumulate capital. One is by a desperately hard and bitter exploitation of the people themselves, a process which took place in Great Britain some 250 years ago and continued over a long time during one of the most brutal and bitter periods of British history. It can take the form it took in the Soviet union, which was a savage and bitter exploitation of the mass of the people; or it can take the course it took in North America, which was perhaps the most comfortable form and possibly the most comfortable example in the history of the accumulation of capital.