

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

of the exploited and the distressed masses, is what?—the promise of improved conditions in exchange for those freedoms of thought, speech and worship which we believe to be essential to the good life.

This explains of course what has happened in China. It may happen elsewhere if the democratic nations fail to take effective steps immediately to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and rescue the exploited. Of course the former policy of giving unconditional aid to corrupt regimes, as in China, has played right into the hands of the communist leaders, and scattered in the Far East seeds of distrust against the west.

I believe we must now try to undo as much of the evil of the immediate and the distant past as we can. I say to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) that I do not think any gain can be had by cutting ourselves completely off from the teeming millions of China and a large part of the Far East. In other words, I think we shall lose, rather than gain, by refusing to recognize that the Chinese have a new, if revolutionary, government. Recognition, as we well know, does not in fact involve the approval of any regime. We have recognized, and properly so, governments of countries whose people assisted in winning the war against the fascist, nazi and Japanese aggressors, as did the Chinese, even when we have disliked or abhorred their political philosophies.

Hence we should make no exception in the case of China. In our opinion the government should grant recognition at an early date. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs is reported to have remarked recently, the centre of world interest is now Asia, and perhaps more explicitly southeast Asia. At the moment Indo-China, Burma, Indonesia and other countries are feeling the impact of a new and threatening conquest. The offensive is largely ideological—in the realm of ideas, which fall on fertile ground because of age-old poverty, suffering and exploitation.

This cannot be met with military might. Soviet communism, fascism, or any other totalitarian threat, cannot be stopped by guns and bombs alone. I am not implying that, with the dangers existing all around us, we should not, until we get proper collective security, take measures to protect ourselves. But surely we should understand by now that communism, like fascism, feeds on poverty, hunger, misery and insecurity. The best and, indeed, the only way eventually to defeat communism or any of these other totalitarian cults is to offer and establish conditions so that people are well fed, healthy, properly clothed and housed and—I add one other—free.

So we say we believe that unless economic assistance is forthcoming, perhaps particularly for the people of southeast Asia, and soon, we shall have lost the cold war in that part of the world. That is why I think a new attempt to stop the armament race and the acceptance of proposals to utilize our common resources for human progress should appeal so strongly to all of us, particularly if we can hope to succeed in bringing such an idea to fruition.

I noted that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) was reported to have said that Canada had already over-extended herself in giving economic aid. I am glad he shakes his head, although that is what the press report indicated. If that were said, may I say that we and the United States are the only countries with surpluses of food and raw materials so necessary for the winning of the war against poverty. As long as we have farm surpluses, as long as we have unemployment, we have the means, if we will use them, of making a still greater contribution to the winning of the cold war which is, as I have said, made possible by widespread poverty, misery and want. I am not implying, nor have I implied, that we can do this alone, but we should be pressing and urging on every occasion for the acceptance of an international economic plan or plans for meeting the needs of the undeveloped, war-devastated and impoverished countries of the world.

By international planning I do not mean planning primarily for private gain but international planning for the common good. Such planning, democratic and socialist, is as essential to us as it is to other people. The plight of our own primary producers and of nearly 400,000 workers reported a day or two ago to be unemployed underlines the necessity of our taking a vital and direct interest in the making of such a plan. As I have stated several times, we believe that the proper solution of world economic problems is essential to the solution of the dangerous political problems which face the world at the present time. Even without a comprehensive international plan we should devise ways and means of protecting our own people from depressed farm prices and lack of remunerative employment. After all, settlement in the international sphere will, I readily admit, take time, but our domestic difficulties are immediate and require immediate and maybe short-term solutions.

I think everyone will admit that our Canadian economy is particularly vulnerable because of the manner in which it has evolved. Until recent years we were in the happy position, as the Prime Minister (Mr. St.