

They felt that their needs and claims for assistance were no less great than those of the Europeans. In a sense, what one might call "the under-developed" became a self-conscious and more or less organized bloc as a sort of counterweight to the European countries which in the international resolutions of 1946-48 were called the "war-devastated areas". Without disrespect, one could say that the under-developed wanted to get into the game. Who could blame them?

But the real difficulty, and this they found it harder to realize, or at least to admit, is that the situations and problems are in many ways not at all comparable. The peoples of Western Europe have made themselves, by habits built up through efforts over generations and centuries, one of the most advanced on earth - the populations are highly literate, with generations of effective working traditions and technical skills, of managerial enterprise, and - much the most important of all - with habits of capable and honest administration and of social self-discipline. In areas where these qualities are the rare exception rather than the rule, it is much harder, with the best will in the world, for any outsider who would bring help to find where to begin if the aid is to do more than to enrich a few or bring temporary relief which will soon be swallowed up. The problem has been compared with that of trying to telescope into a generation experiences comparable to those of the Renaissance, the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, the intellectual developments of the age of reason, and the process of the industrial revolution all put together.

But for all the difficulties, a real start has been made. The pressures, and the programmes which have been developed, are really beginning to get results. I have already referred to the U.N. Technical Assistance Programme. The Colombo Plan, which provides not only technical assistance but capital for selected projects in South-East Asia is, despite all the difficulties, having real success in certain places.

Meanwhile the pressures, in the United Nations and elsewhere, go on. There have in recent years been mounting demands, for example, to start a project picturesquely called "SUNFED" - the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development. It has been agreed in principle that such a fund will be established once enough progress has been made on a world-wide supervised disarmament programme to allow the industrialized countries who are expected to pay for it to reduce expenditure sufficiently on defence programmes to make it practicable to divert a portion of the savings for this purpose. As you would expect, most of the delegations of under-developed countries have made it clear that they don't like the delay. But they have to recognize that there are limits to what is practicable, and to what the traffic will bear.