

We share many things, I agree, in our two countries, even though we are not Siamese twins; not least, a concern for the whole human family. Both our countries - you in an unprecedentedly massive way through aid and assistance - have shown that concern in the last two decades.

The Family of Man, exemplifying the brotherhood of man, is an ideal as old as society itself. True acceptance of the family as an ideal does not mean that there is always peace and harmony among its membership. The first family in the Book of Genesis is a witness that "family" doesn't always mean "fraternity".

But a family normally reflects a cohesiveness, a solidarity of interest and sentiment which makes for friendship and understanding. It is an ideal which, even though not always realized in peaceful conduct, remains valid in the larger relations within and between political societies; especially today, as we all live under the shadow of a nuclear missile.

Your Society, dedicated to the promotion of brotherhood among the Family of Man, has laid down certain admirable guide-lines in the realization of this ideal.

The first is the practice of ethical, moral and democratic principles in living together. The only question that might arise here is the identification of democratic principles with peace and goodwill. Is it vox populi, vox pacis, as well as vox dei? I hope so, and I try to resist the doubt that history and contemporary experience at times throw on that hope. Many crimes can be committed, many mistakes made, in the name of popular democracy; through the counting within a nation of heads which have become hot, or of delegates in an international assembly who have become irrational by emotion. The rule of 51 per cent is not necessarily a golden or divine rule, especially when it can be achieved mechanically by a slide rule.

The second guide-line to peace you have laid down is the pursuit of individual excellence as a spur to social progress.

I am impressed by your Council's identification of the four areas of human endeavour in which excellence gives hope and direction to our society. Only by developing, in a creative and responsible manner, the art and technology of communications - the first such area - can we raise world levels of education. Second, only through the right kind of education can we bring about those improved human relations on which world peace can be securely based.

You have chosen, as recipients for awards of excellence in these four fields, men whose achievements are outstanding. I pay my own deep and sincere tribute to what they have done. But, even more, to what they have stood for and still stand for. It is an honour for me to share the distinction of being your guest tonight.

The third guide-line you have laid down is community service - local, national and world - in the interest of security and peace. We are a long way from securing peace, but we have made some progress.