



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### ASIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

An address by the Administrator of the International Economic and Technical Co-operation Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Nik Cavell, made to the Ottawa Women's Canadian Club, May 21, 1952.

...Since I accepted the very kind invitation of your President to speak to you today, I have travelled, mostly by air, over 40,000 miles in Southeast Asia and have renewed my acquaintance with countries I once knew well. Vast changes have taken place in those countries since I last saw them. Many of them have been devastated by war and still show the ugly scars, not only physical scars but those more serious ones which show up in a nation in frustration, civil war, disorder, terrible poverty and a population which has lost its sense of security. In some of these countries the war left a political vacuum, and a terrible fight is going on to determine what form of government shall fill it. There are other nations I revisited, which since I saw them last have had a rebirth. India has obtained the freedom for which her leaders fought so hard and so long. The Moslems of India decided that partition was best and founded Pakistan, the newest state in the world, and, in both India and Pakistan, I found a new spirit. I found it not only amongst the political leaders of these countries, but amongst the people in all walks of life, and particularly I found it amongst the young people.

I had several opportunities of talking to groups of young students and I found them to be imbued with a sense of the great importance to their countries of what happens in the next few years. I met many dedicated men and women who in many cases had given up lives of ease and leisure to serve their country and to play a part in shaping its destiny at this crucial time. Many times I was reminded of something said once by Oliver Wendel Holmes:

"A man should share the action and passion of his time at peril of being judged not to have lived." These people of Asia are living.

Nowhere in the world is so much history being made as in Asia today, and we should know much more about its trends than we do because, whatever we might think to the contrary, what happens in Asia in our time will have a profound effect on the lives and happiness of our children.

These new Asian governments have been much concerned about the poverty of their people, and over the whole Colombo Plan area, plans have been made which require capital amounting to about five billion dollars for the next six