

*External Affairs*

The dominant idea arising out of my observations is the evident current of nationalism which has spread throughout Asia, the anxiety of people to shake off all external domination and attain self-government, which is an accomplished fact for most of them, and takes the form of impatient aspiration by those who have not yet reached their full independence.

The recent emancipation of many Asian countries has been accompanied by difficult readjustments of their internal economies, by administrative problems arising out of the setting up of new mechanisms of government and new systems of civil service. As the nationalist trend took more and more importance and led to the liberation of many countries, the communist forces tried to ride the wave in order to further their own ends, but their strength evidently came more from the support they got from the outside than from the true aspirations of the people themselves.

The masses in Asia have lived for centuries under deplorable economic conditions as compared with those prevailing in Europe and America. It is natural that their new leaders want to improve their lot. It is also natural that opinions may vary as to the best means to bring about the reforms considered necessary to reach that end. There are in every country communist groups of different strengths and number who receive help and encouragement from communist China and Soviet Russia. Fortunately there are also strong and determined men who prefer the pattern of government of the western democracies and their economic and social policies that have given to the western world a standard of living that is higher than that of any other part of the world.

I am of opinion that any change toward communism in Asia will not come from the action of the masses or from any internal upheaval. If it should come it will be through invasion or through infiltration from the outside.

The relative success reached by a country under communist regime or by a country following our pattern of government in raising the standard of living of the masses may determine in years to come the orientation of the tendencies of Asian people toward one form of government or another. Perhaps I may be permitted here to give a sentence or two of the conversation I had with Prime Minister Nehru when I was in India. He candidly said—and there was no restriction to my quoting it or stating that he had said such a thing—that if we have peace for 20 years in Asia, in 20 years from now we shall be able to determine where Asia

will go, whether it will stay with a form of government similar to that of the western democracies or whether it will turn to communism. He said after 20 years of peace one would be able to determine which of the two systems has given the two countries, India and China, a better standard of living; and if China, although it will have purged millions of people, and taken away private property and the liberties of the individuals, is given a better standard of living in 20 years than we in India shall have been able to give by keeping the liberties of the people, by carrying on the form of government we now have, he said, if China puts on a better showing in 20 years, our system may be superseded by another system. But he added he felt and was convinced that they in India would be able to bring about a better condition of life for the masses with the system they have and also keep the liberties of the individuals.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, it is so important that adequate help be granted to the less fortunate parts of the world that are still outside the communist orbit. This is why the help given by the appropriate organization of the United Nations or by the United States under the Point Four program or by the commonwealth under the Colombo plan, is so important and so vital to keep Asia outside the grasp of the communist world.

Although I started my trip from west to east and started in Japan it may be more opportune to speak first of the commonwealth nations. I was seven weeks in all in the three different countries of the commonwealth that are inhabited by people with a culture that is vastly superior to many. I refer to the great civilizations of India, Ceylon and Pakistan. But one must not forget when speaking of India and such countries that there is not only one angle to be considered, historical monuments of the past and politics of the present. India is a modern nation; it is becoming modernized gradually. It is highly industrialized. I do not think it is right to generalize but when people approach me they say: Is it not poor in India; is it not terrible in India? Well, that is far from being the fact, because India is becoming modernized and India's industry is taking great strides in its march to the future.

In the six thousand miles we covered in India I visited industries and saw industries in far remote places where I did not expect to see them. Although the improvement in the standard of living, according to statistics, is one per cent over the last five years, I have confidence that if the country carries on united as it is now and with a unity of purpose of action it will make great strides in the years to come.

[Mr. Picard.]