

Western Europe and North America have had a particular role in the international economic system. It is interesting to note that the United Nations of today, with its large-scale multilateral institutions is, to a large degree, the outgrowth of wartime reconstruction and development plans. The Second World War required greater economic cooperation than previous wars, and post-war economic planning began during the conflict.

In a real sense, the war in Europe cast the die for the new economic order. It is equally important that the philosophy underlying the principles of the United Nations Charter was essentially liberal in the classic sense, - based on freedom, openness of thought, generosity and the abolition of privilege. Aid itself became part of liberal democratic institutions; this was true in multilateral and bilateral programs, although in the early fifties, as evidenced by the Colombo Plan, there was, as there is today, the security aspect as well.

In the North-South context, the liberal tradition may be seen to underlie the push for political independence in developing countries. It has fostered subsequent efforts to encourage continued commitment to human rights and pluralistic processes in newly established states. It has accepted the concept of non-alignment, but at the same time has tried to insist that the non-alignment be genuine, so that developing countries may be free of East-West tensions, which so often sap the energies of those who need that energy most.

I believe that World security will depend largely upon how governments manage the crises of the present decade. I also believe that world security will depend on the degree to which liberal ideas can survive in this economic climate. The modern world economy really does not leave room for pure ideology - while the private sector has much to offer the process of international development, it is not a panacea, nor can it ever be. Societies of the world community are too complex, and too divergent, and this to me is something that must not be ignored.

Not all developing countries share the same values as Western democracies. Often their infrastructures are lacking, as are skilled people to manage their economies,