

External Affairs

I might say that Canadian contributions to United Nations technical aid are now \$1,500,000, a relatively paltry sum when the need of the world is considered.

Then, of course, there is the Colombo plan. That is the most interesting project in which we are engaged. Upon the success of technical aid, the Point Four plan of the United States and the Colombo plan, I believe, depends the victory of democracy over communist propaganda in southeast Asia. The Colombo plan originated in 1950 and has since then been extended beyond the confines of the commonwealth countries of southeast Asia to take in neighbouring states, and the United States has become involved.

This afternoon the hon. member for Prince Albert mentioned the extremely low standard of living of the people in this area. The people in this area—600 million of them—have annual incomes of about \$50 or \$60 a year. The people there live on a subnormal diet averaging about 12 ounces of cereals per day or less than 2,000 calories. Those are official statements. According to medical experts, this is regarded as a minimum for survival and, except in special circumstances, few persons in North America are reduced to such a low calorie diet. Yet, before the war these areas produced a third of the world's fats and edible oils, three-quarters of the world's tea, nearly all the world's natural rubber and many coarse textile materials such as jute, not to mention cotton. These resources were the monopoly of western companies.

Asians understandably believe that they were thus exploited to produce wealth for the western world. So I think we are under obligation to do everything we can to improve the standards of living and to make amends for the exploitation of earlier years. So I say if we are to retain the friendship and support of these people there is the necessity for rapid improvement in the standards of living. I am not suggesting that we make, as is sometimes said, great gifts of food and so on to these people though sometimes famine requires them. The main thing that we must do is to enable them to feed themselves and to build up their own economy, and to train young men and women and to assist them to do all that is possible, when they go back to their countries, to enable their countries to become prosperous in the years ahead.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to make these few points today. But what I have said towards the conclusion of my remarks is what I should like to emphasize most, that if we are going to win this battle for men's minds we are not going to win it on the military fields. One of the disappointments I had

when the United States secretary of state was here quite recently was that he seemed to emphasize the problems facing the world rather as a war minister than as one who was interested in matters of the kind about which I have just been talking. While defence may be and is necessary, nonetheless what our people need to learn most is that we have got to do everything we can to win the people of Asia to our side, and that means that we have got to assist them to improve their standards of life and eliminate the seed beds of communism; for poverty, misery and want are the seed beds in which subversive ideas thrive.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, the minister as usual gave a most interesting and thought-provoking speech this afternoon. There are quite a number of things I should like to have time to comment upon but I am afraid that my task has been made a little different as a consequence of one of the speeches at least made this afternoon. Therefore I shall have to refrain from commenting on the minister's speech to any great extent except to say I had hoped that in the course of his address he might have had something to say about the Middle East because there are some problems there which have got to be solved if peace is to be brought to that part of the world and if the security of one of the great trade routes of the world is to be maintained. However, perhaps in the course of his rebuttal he may have a chance to say something about it then.

I should like to comment briefly on the speech made this afternoon and this evening by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart, (Mr. Coldwell). I think it was a speech which will give comfort to the enemy. I think it was a speech that paralleled to a very great degree the communist line.

Mr. Coldwell: Oh, nonsense, nonsense, nonsense!

An hon. Member: Shame.

An hon. Member: Absolutely.

Mr. Coldwell: More Social Credit smearing again.

Mr. Low: I listened to my hon. friend, and I could not help thinking that he was very sincere in what he said. I am not criticizing his sincerity for one moment, and I believe that he believed every single thing he said. But that does not for one second mitigate the influence that it will have upon a great many people because they have not the facts at hand against which to measure the things that he did say. I was very much interested in the glowing picture that he painted of what the visionary Attlee