

"They also associate their economic efforts with denunciations of colonialism. That is, of course, an easy way of becoming popular in that part of the world where they have been all too successful in obscuring their own record as the greatest colonial exploiters of modern times and the greatest suppressors of freedom in modern times. During the very period in which they were posing as the champions of Asian peoples struggling to be free they were keeping from freedom nations and peoples who have traditions of freedom going back for centuries. It would be a very good thing if we exposed this hypocrisy on their part at every opportunity given to us. ... Nevertheless, it is true that the Russians have been very successful in Asia in identifying themselves with this freedom movement and in causing people to forget their own record in Europe.

"... What should we in the West do to counteract all this, and what should be the principles upon which our international aid policy should be based?

"As I said a little while ago, I think we should pay a little more attention to the 'why' and 'how'. Why do we help these people, and how do we help them? ... It is essential to divorce our aid from political considerations and if we - as I am sure we do in connection with the Colombo Plan - go out of our way to respect the national and cultural sensitiveness of the people with whom we are co-operating in this field, and if we make sure that our aid is practical and well administered and if before we engage in any project we work out an agreement between the countries concerned, the giver and the receiver, as we do under the Colombo Plan, then we shall be working in the best and most practical way.

"Finally, I think we should bring the United Nations into these matters as much as possible - more than we have in the past because there is no better way of removing any suspicion that there is some ulterior purpose in granting aid than in having it administered by an international organization.

"... It would be useful if we could extend the technique of examination of and consultation over plans and projects which has worked so very well in the case of the Colombo Plan through the annual meeting of the Ministerial Committee. If we could extend that technique to the United Nations in respect of all international assistance projects so that each year a United Nations committee of some kind - one of the existing committees under the Economic and Social Council or a new committee - would act as a clearing house for all schemes of international assistance; if every country which was willing to participate in this activity and every country receiving assistance could meet and exchange views as to what was being done and why it was being done, I think this would represent a real advance. I do not mean by this that existing machinery, such as the Colombo Plan machinery which is working so well, should be scrapped, or that