

When African states drew up a charter of unity in Addis Ababa in 1963, they naturally devoted a good deal of attention to economic problems. They noted, among others, the considerations that "economic development, including the expansion of trade on the basis of fair and remunerative prices, should tend to eliminate the need for external economic aid, and that such external economic aid should be unconditional and should not prejudice the independence of African states".

This statement expresses some of the chief concerns of developing nations in Africa or elsewhere. It is clear that they want to derive the benefits of trade under the conditions which we in the developed nations consider normal. They want to obtain for their peoples the standard of living which technology, education, hard work and political stability can obviously, under contemporary conditions, produce. They want to bolster a highly cherished political independence with economic strength.

The responsibility of initiating this drive for better conditions, of defining the goals and of providing the greatest amount of the effort, is that of the developing nations. But if, in undertaking this drive, they turn to the developed nations for some of the credits, the grants, the technical knowledge and advice which are extremely important in achieving the initial momentum of economic growth, then we can only say that the efforts which they are willing to undertake on their own behalf have self-evident value in terms of our interest also, and that we shall help. No developed country which attributes any importance to its acceptance of the United Nations Charter could, so far as I am concerned, do otherwise.

There is an abundance of reasons supporting this view, ranging all the way from instinctive humanitarianism to political realism. I might remind you of some of the considerations of realism. If the independence of nations should be threatened by extreme poverty leading to anarchy, there would be a considerable temptation to those with greater power to intervene, with all the threats which intervention would pose to world peace. If the solution of some problems of frontiers, of lines of communication and of resources are not sought through regional and world economic co-operation, they will become the sources of brooding resentments and conflicts. If the relationship between races which characterized earlier eras of industrial revolution and colonialism is not clearly altered by new conditions of economic co-operation and political respect, then resentments, misunderstanding, ideological clashes and the formation of political blocs will impede diplomacy, international co-operation and trade.

In purely economic terms, the gradual effect on the world market of economic growth in all parts of the world reflected in the capacity of more nations to export and import on a more diversified basis without external assistance will be a good one.

We can never expect economic development alone to guarantee peace, however. In the concluding section of my remarks, I should like to turn to some of the political conditions for peaceful change.