

The Colombo Plan was not conceived as a large-scale relief effort, for, as I read recently, even a grant of one billion dollars a year for the relief of the distressed in Asia would do little more than provide a hoe for each farmer.

The aim of these programmes is to give millions of people now without hope, confidence in their ability to solve their own problems and to raise their own standards of life. If they can be given that confidence, we can hope for an eventual end to the misery and suffering that now haunt their lives. I am sure their present misery and suffering do help to make them more receptive than they would otherwise be to the false promises of Communism.

What we do need to be concerned about is to prevent false confidence that the danger of Communist aggression has receded enough that we can afford to relax.

I believe the danger has receded somewhat, but it has receded only because the free world appears to mean business; and, if we are to be secure, we must continue to mean business.

And if it is vital to mean business about peace, it is also vital to mean business about world trade. No country has done more than ours since the war to promote world trade.

During that war world trade was almost totally dislocated. When the war was over Canada had lost some of our traditional customers for certain products. We found that the overall Canadian trade picture had changed as well. The United States was increasingly purchasing more from us and our total trade with the United Kingdom last year reached an all-time record but that great country, and to a lesser degree, other European countries were forced by a shortage of dollars to restrict the purchase of many foodstuffs which before and during the war they imported from Canada.

To offset this loss of former markets and to prevent too great a dependence on one single customer, we have sought new outlets for our goods. The International Trade Fair held annually in Toronto has been of considerable value in this connection.

The peace treaty and the re-establishment of normal diplomatic relations with Japan will help to restore that country to its former position as a buyer of large quantities of Canadian products.

Our new Ambassador to Japan is a leading businessman from British Columbia, who until recently represented that province in the Government at Ottawa. Mr. Mayhew knows the importance of two-way trade and we can expect him to make a practical use of that knowledge.

The recent visit to South America of a Canadian trade mission headed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. C.D. Howe, is already helping us to find new outlets and new sources of imports in an area where our trade has already increased 1800 per cent since 1939.

We have also been conscious of the continuing importance of the markets in Commonwealth countries. Last December the Minister of Finance and I spent two weeks at a Commonwealth Economic Conference in London. Though this