

and capabilities in technical matters and in the sciences are far greater than many of us realize, or wish to realize. I wish that we could whole-heartedly welcome this new source of contribution to the world Community Chest. The task that remains to be done is enormous and it needs the mobilisation of the world's entire resources. We would, however, be happier about accepting the Soviet Union as a new convert to the practice of co-operating with the rest of the international community in foreign aid and technical assistance, if we could be assured that the communist empire would be willing to abide by the rules which are generally accepted by those countries which have been trying to do their share in this field for some time.

Although a late starter in the field, and whatever its motives may be, the Soviet Union seems to be trying to make up for lost time. Already they have made important economic deals with Egypt, India, Syria, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Burma, the Sudan and Yemen. These various offers and proposals have been made with such shrewdness, and have often been so tied up with political appeal, that they have received publicity in the under-developed countries out of all proportion to their importance in economic or assistance terms. The Soviet Union has been trying with skill, determination and irresponsibility - and with too much success - to get the maximum of political advantage from its operations; in certain areas it seems to have gained more popular approval from its more offers than the West has gained from its much more generous plans and its far greater accomplishments over a much longer time.

The fact is that in entering into this phase of competitive co-existence, the Soviet Union has some important immediate advantages in its favour.

Its leaders control vast resources, both human and material, which they can use for political or other purposes without any Parliamentary or popular restraint whatsoever. Their worries about public opinion are inimical. If political advantage so indicated, they could export, and in the past they have exported, food and other materials, even if their own people were in short supply. They can, and do, in negotiating trade or commercial arrangements, make loans on easy terms without regard to economic considerations, and they have provided capital goods at less than cost price. They are also prepared to accept commodities from their customers abroad, even though these commodities are of no great importance to them. Whatever commercial losses the Soviet bloc countries may incur in such deals are considered to be more than counter-balanced by any immediate or long-range political advantage. The Soviet Union can also accept and use many of the surplus raw materials which