

The countries of Asia are today sovereign powers making their own decisions and running their own affairs. Our contacts with them are through the United Nations and the Commonwealth and it is surely obvious that we must do all we possibly can to use these two organizations to assist these Asian governments in attaining stability and in building up the standards of living of their people, which is the only way they can hope to remain free nations. Through these two organizations and particularly through the United Nations, we can assist in settling such thorny problems as that of Kashmir, which is today preventing the amicable relations which should exist between India and Pakistan. We can assist in settling the equally difficult problem of Japan. Many countries in Asia fear a revived Japan might lead again to that Japanese aggression under which they suffered so terribly through the period of the Second World War. On the other side of the medal there are over 82 million people on the tiny Japanese Islands and unless they can export their manufactured goods and so buy food they cannot live today any more than they could before the Second World War - another example of the fact that war does not solve problems but only creates more of them. It is surely obvious that this is a world problem and that only by the granting of concessions in the world trading picture can the Japanese be enabled to live.

What I particularly want to point up today is that there are practically no problems in Asia which are theirs alone. For instance, if the countries of Southeast Asia should be taken behind the Iron Curtain as China was, not only shall we lose all our contacts with them but the free world would lose, and the totalitarian world would gain, the vast resources which are so vital to our own economy. We often hear that the ever-increasing population of Asia will eventually put the whole world into great food difficulties but it is a fact that the American population is growing at a far greater rate than that of India! Already the population of the world is estimated to be 2,350,000,000 and every year it grows by 25 million. As Dr. Dudley Stamp points out in a recent book, every time we sit down to breakfast, there are 70,000 more mouths to be fed than there were on the previous morning.

Obviously again, this is not an Asian problem but a world problem, and we must all pitch in and determine how we are going to increase the world's food supply in order to cope with it.

But I still maintain that by far the most important problem which faces us is how we are going to keep human freedom alive in the world. Certainly we cannot do it by allowing totalitarian power to become stronger and stronger. The struggle between freedom and totalitarian force becomes more bitter day by day.

It is costing the world vast sums of money in armament but under present conditions we have no alternative. It is the same curse which has bedevilled real human progress since the beginning of the human race - the urge for power, the urge for domination. The lack of tolerance which will not permit differences, the terrible urge to absolute conformity by force if it cannot be brought about by any other means. Perhaps the greatest need of the world today is tolerance.

I am convinced that human freedom can win this latest fight. I even believe that it can be done without another