

In Ceylon I met the national leaders in Colombo, the capital, well-known to all Canadians because of its connection with the Commonwealth plan of aid to less-developed Asian countries. This new nation has many problems still to be solved, but I am able to report that Canadian assistance to this, as to other Colombo Plan countries, is already paying dividends in the kind of practical goodwill that will make Canadians and their products acceptable and welcome.

In Malaya, we saw at first hand the struggle of the little nations of Asia against Communism being waged on a still active fighting front. This is one of the vital battlegrounds of the drive of international communism for the heart and minds of the Asians. Malaya seems a long way off to most of us, but I can assure you that the results of the struggle now going on in Malaya will affect the lives of Canadians for many years to come. It is a good thing for us of the West that, whatever our differences in other matters, we still have men like Prime Minister Tunku Rahman in many strategic places in the Asian world, who understand the terrible implications in a victory for communism.

The last of our talks took place in Australia and New Zealand, two Commonwealth countries with which Canada has many traditional political and economic ties. I found both Mr. Menzies, and Mr. Nash of New Zealand, hopeful about the prospects for expanding the two-way trade between our countries. I wish I had time to tell you of the fine relations Australia and New Zealand are developing with the new Asian nations. Quite recently Australia concluded trade agreements with Ceylon, Malaya and Japan, practical examples of that kind of mutual co-operation between East and West which must come quickly if the free world is to survive.

And now, finally, it is proper to ask: "What has been gained for Canada?" My predecessor in office, Mr. St-Laurent, when he returned from a similar visit around the world, outlined the many advantages of his experience and I feel sure that they are as valid today as then. The average Canadian derives a third of his income from our export trade. He has, therefore, a more direct and personal interest in our relations abroad than the citizens of other countries.

The leaders of many states whose activities are of vital concern to Canada have been met, and have themselves now met the new leader of the Government of Canada, which has a deep-rooted tradition of international responsibility. The Canadian viewpoint on many matters has been put before them - and they, in turn, have had an opportunity to express their own views and opinions.

But I would like to think that there are more lasting consequences than even these personal contacts, important though they are. I would like to believe that these visits re-emphasize our Canadian commitments to the highest moral and political standards of international goodwill, and to a continuation of that