

tion of those governments. The recommendations made at Colombo are now before the various governments for any action they decide to take.

No single policy was laid down or sought on any of the questions before us at Ceylon. We listened to each other's points of view, and I think that we gained something from doing so. An exchange of views of this kind between governments representing countries from five continents of the world—from Asia, from Europe, from Australasia, from Africa and from North America—is bound to be useful in modifying points of view which may have been held prior to the meeting.

So far as the Canadian delegation was concerned, we inevitably tended to give the North American viewpoint on the political questions which were discussed, and a dollar viewpoint on the economic questions. Though we all had our own point of view, a discussion of this kind helps to correct the inevitable distortions in our thinking which may arise, in the case of Canada, for instance, because we have traditionally looked on the world from the north Atlantic, North American viewpoint of a people whose civilization for the most part comes from that of western European Christendom.

Nationalism and Communism in Asia

The fact that the discussions were held at Ceylon was particularly valuable at this time, because, as I see it, the centre of gravity in international affairs has, to some extent at least, moved to Asia. In my view the advance of Russian communist imperialism has been stopped in Europe, at least for the time being. It has not been stopped in Asia, where it is now trying desperately to win power over those millions of people by allying itself with forces of national liberation and social reform.

It has had great success in China, until now, and continental China is under the control of a communist government which is allied to Russia. But in spite of the publication of the recent Russian-Chinese treaty, we are not yet quite certain what form the alliance has taken. The nationalism of the people of Asia has now finally and fully asserted itself. It is even true to say that in some quarters in this part of the world, people, if they were forced to make the unhappy choice, might prefer even communism to a return to colonialism. The existence of this feeling is recognized now by the nations of Europe and America.

The political mould into which south and southeast Asia was gradually poured during the years following the European incursions four hundred years ago, or more, has now been broken finally, and the great colonial empires of the nineteenth century have either disappeared from that part of the world or are in process of disappearing. No one yet knows what pattern will emerge from that disappearance. No one can be certain that the independence which the peoples of this area are now exercising can in all cases be maintained in its present form, or whether their internal problems will prove so great that, through weakness, they will fall prey to confusion, to disorder and to those subversive forces which try to provoke, and certainly know how to exploit, such a situation.

At the present time the countries of south and southeast Asia are making impressive efforts toward the establishment of strong modern nation states, and