

External Affairs

When I say that, I am under no illusion that such negotiations could be accomplished overnight. I realize it would take a considerable length of time and might have to be done piecemeal, little by little and bit by bit.

In urging this Canada could perform a very useful service in publicly and explicitly taking the lead in calling for such a conference followed, of course, by the implementation of the United Nations charter in regard to security and general disarmament arrangements. But in spite of what the minister said this afternoon I still think—and I think it strongly as do many others—that the solution of the present world problems will not be found in the development of nuclear weapons, the building of armaments or the stretching of strategic bases from one end of the world to the other in order to contain communism.

I think that the only way in which communist propaganda and aggression can be met will be in a field other than the field of military containment and organization. The United Nations Organization has done much in this regard already. The world health organization has done much to improve the standards of health and the elimination of tropical diseases which have afflicted Asian and African countries—yes, and some parts of Europe and South America—for generations. This is the kind of thing that will gain support for the western democracies. Yet the amounts we have appropriated, when compared with our expenditures on military defence, are pitiful and quite inadequate. The hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) this afternoon put on the record some very compelling figures as to our inadequate contribution both to the Colombo plan and to the technical aid of the United Nations. Another fund that I think has done much to win support to the democratic cause is the children's fund of the United Nations. That is supported, of course, by public national—or international, if you like—contributions as well as voluntary contributions. All these activities have done much to win support. Of course, I could enumerate many other projects of the same kind.

After all, if we are to win this war, the cold war if you like,—the battle for men's minds across the world—we need far greater effort to remove the causes of disease, famine and poverty and to raise the standards of living everywhere in the world. Communism is born and bred mainly in depressed areas, not only in foreign lands but in our own land. Of course it is true that among the most active of communists are often men and women with, I think, mistaken ideals who,

[Mr. Coldwell.]

impatient at the slow development of humanitarian policies in our midst, believe that revolutionary movements offer the quickest and best hope of success. Needless to say, they are blind to the suffering which violent revolution inevitably involves, whether it is in China, Russia or any other country where these violent revolutions occur; and they continue not only during the period of the revolution itself but during the longer period of rehabilitation which follows these social upheavals.

So I say the response of the non-communist world must be made more forthright in the fields of economic and social progress. I join in the plea that was made this afternoon for a greater appropriation for these world needs. I am not talking about a billion dollars from Canada but I am saying that, instead of the paltry \$20 million or \$25 million subscribed by all the nations of the world for technical aid in the United Nations, a billion dollars would be insufficient to meet the world's needs in the years to come. Indeed, the new plan for the raising of capital for backward countries envisages \$250 million for development.

When I think of technical aid, I am thinking not only of the one sort of technical aid by the kind of subscription that we have been making through the United Nations to that organization's special fund but of other funds as well to the extent of a billion dollars or so in all. So I say that with quite inadequate funds the United Nations Organization for technical aid has been doing a remarkable job. When one realizes, as I have said before, that the united nations together are subscribing just over \$20 million a year for this purpose and when one contrasts that amount with the amount that we are collectively spending on military defence, running into hundreds of billions of dollars, we can realize what might be done if our appropriation for technical aid were proportionate in some degree to our expenditure on other—and, let me say at once, necessary—military defence.

Last autumn I had the opportunity of being in the Middle East in the state of Israel for a couple of weeks and in that state, which is led by a highly intelligent and devoted group of men and women, I saw a good many evidences of what can be done with outside capital aid and technical assistance. The draining of swamps and the ending of malaria, the engineering aspects of water utilization, irrigation and hydroelectric projects, and experiments in the production of new crops like cotton in that area have all been to some extent assisted by technicians sent by the technical aid division of the United Nations and financed, of course, largely by Jewish bond drives and gifts from abroad.