

United Nations

particularism which has led nations to their downfall and disintegration . . . Internationalism is the abject caricature of universalism. But the spirit of universalism must awaken among Christian nations, the will of a free universalism must reveal itself.

And he goes on to say:

Russia has the most universalist spirit among all nations of the world. This quality is part of the very structure of its national spirit. Working towards universal unification, towards the formation of a single spiritual cosmos, this must be the vocation of the Russian people.

Russia occupies a central position among the countries which look to the western world to obtain the necessary assistance for their recovery. Asia has a population of 1,300 million, Europe has 398 million, North and South America have 333 million, the U.S.S.R. has about 200 million, and Africa about 200 million.

From those figures it will be seen that almost half the total population of the world lives in Asia. But it happens that Russia, which belongs to both Europe and Asia, presently dominates economically the whole of Asia. The prestige of the western world will only diminish unless we can convince the Asiatic populations that we have no imperialistic ambitions, no ambitions of conquest or destruction, and that all we expect from the assistance we are willing to give them is a reciprocal exchange of commercial advantages which will integrate them into this concept of universalism, based on common comprehension and co-operation.

Our Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), before leaving for his world tour, said on January 29, as reported at page 1582 of *Hansard*:

Our interest in Asia has also been increased as a result of the desire of our people to assist our Asian friends to improve their social and economic conditions.

Then he went on to say:

Canada, I think, has welcomed the opportunity to share in the encouragement of freedom and economic improvement in Asia because we realize the importance of maintaining good relations between the western world and the hundreds of millions of our fellow men in these ancient nations of Asia.

I feel that we can maintain good relations with them only as long as we treat them on terms of complete equality, with respect for their older and perhaps somewhat less materialistic culture and achievements, and in a spirit of genuine understanding and co-operation. We must deal with them in the realization that while we may seem to have much to give they too have a very important contribution to make to the general welfare of the world.

May I say that what is true for Asia is also true for Africa, Indonesia and also some countries of South America. In the annual report of the secretary general on the work

of the United Nations, Mr. Hammarskjöld wrote:

Of the multitude of the United Nations programs in the economic and social field in which the government members have joined their efforts for their common benefit, none is more significant or less costly in the building of a better world community than the sharing in what is universally known as technical assistance.

Let us for a few minutes examine what was done by the United Nations in this respect. The economic and social council have set up a board called the technical assistance board. In 1950 an expanded program was made effective. In 1952 a full-time executive chairman of the board was appointed with the duty of supervising the program of technical assistance, and the appraisal of the activities of the participating organizations. A special account was set up, and the earmarking and allocation of funds were to be decided by the chairman after approval of the program by the technical assistance board.

In 1952 the general assembly recommended a contribution of \$25 million suggested by the economic and social council. Programs were elaborated for 1953 and for 1954. Those programs are not an easy undertaking on account of the wide range of the meaning of technical assistance. It comprises economic development, industrial development, transport and communications, public finance and fiscal policy, public administration, statistics and population questions, and not the least, social welfare and development.

What were the realizations of the United Nations with respect to those items? First, with regard to the industrial development program, the United Nations have brought help to 23 governments who received advice from experts. Fellowships and scholarships were awarded in a wide range of manufacturing industries, in handicraft industries, industrial planning, in the exploration and exploitation of oil and other mineral resources, and in the field of hydroelectric development.

Second, with regard to transport and communications, a survey group in 1952 and 1953 made a critical appraisal of transportation in many countries. During the year expert advice was given to ten governments.

Third, with regard to public finance and fiscal policy, the governments of six nations received the advice of experts. A team of economic and financial experts visited Iran and Indonesia. Some comprehensive training programs in fiscal matters were developed for the benefit of those countries requesting a considerable number of fellowships and scholarships in fiscal matters.