

These problems, of course, are not new; but they confront the people and the nations of the world with a new challenge, and viewed in the context of the world affairs, they assume larger significance than ever before. They bear directly on the vital issue of peace, the preservation of fundamental liberties, the development of modern society, and the survival of the United Nations as an effective force in human affairs.

Moreover, long centuries of poverty, ill-health and deprivation have raised disturbing questions in the minds of ordinary men and women in many continents as to whether without the sacrifice of normal human values to totalitarian control and ruthlessness they can ever hope to achieve a reasonably adequate measure of economic and social progress.

Uncertainty about the future course of the peoples of the less-developed areas is one of the most explosive factors in the cold war, - a struggle not confined to developed countries. As more than half of the world's population and the bulk of its strategic resources are in these underdeveloped areas, the stakes at issue are clearly vital to the security and the wellbeing of us all. Failure to realize the importance of this problem - or unwillingness to face the realities of this evolving situation in the world today - could threaten the security and freedom of us all.

We who live in the more prosperous parts of the world cannot take from this situation even the short-sighted consolation of thinking that we are immune from the effects of this poverty and deprivation which is the daily lot of most of the world's people.

Speaking in St. Louis, Missouri, just four years ago this month, the Prime Minister of Canada put it this way:

"Two world wars should have taught us all in North America that we cannot shut ourselves off from the fate of the rest of mankind: that there is no safety in isolation: that we are our brothers' keepers: that the hope of preserving our own free civilization lies in keeping freedom and civilization alive and flourishing throughout the world."

To this, Mr. St. Laurent added something that we would do well to remember in these days when world tensions frequently give birth to unreasonable and unreasoning fears which sometimes find expression in the curtailment of freedom in countries which rightly are proud of their free institutions and traditions. He said: "If we are to preserve civilization, we must first remain civilized; if we are to preserve freedom, we must allow others to remain free."

Terence, the Latin playwright, wrote 2000 years ago: "Nothing that affects humanity can I consider alien from myself." In later years, the English poet of metaphysics, John Donne, put it differently: "No man", he wrote, "is an island entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea,