

in the work of NATO and we have, of course, considerable forces on the NATO defence lines in France and Germany. We, as Canadians, therefore, are very much engaged in the business of international affairs and it seems very likely that this business will increase in its complexity and in the demands it makes upon us.

It occurred to me that you might find it interesting and even useful to consider something of what the difficult events that have been going on in the Near East mean for Canada, and might mean for us. And it has seemed to me also that it might be valuable to try to consider these varied events not as isolated examples of unrest but as parts of a much larger pattern which, in my view, makes many of these turbulent and distressing happenings more intelligible.

There are one or two important points with which I should like to deal in an introductory way. The first and the more important of these is to recall to you that since the war, that is to say, within the last ten or eleven years, very large numbers of people inhabiting old and densely populated countries of Asia have attained complete political independence - Indonesia, Burma, India, Pakistan and, in Africa, the Sudan. Malaya is rapidly approaching a state of political independence, as is the British Gold Coast, and Nigeria. All these vast lands containing so many scores of millions of the world's inhabitants have, then, within this remarkably short time, emerged from their former status as colonial dependencies, and are now seeing as best they can to their own affairs, whether political or economic.

A very considerable part of these peoples is of the Moslem faith, particularly, of course, in Indonesia, Pakistan and the Sudan, although, of course, there are large Moslem minorities in India, Burma and elsewhere. In brief, since the end of the last war, probably 200 million people of the Moslem faith have reached in their various countries the status of political independence and, as a consequence of this remarkable evolution, there have been strong and even violent reactions against any semblance of continuing colonialism, notably, of course, in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The grave disorders of French North Africa should be thought of in the light of the emergence to independence of so many people of the Moslem faith in other lands, for of course the population of French North Africa is about 90% Moslem; it is not unnatural that these further millions of people should be restive, knowing as they do that so many more of their coreligionists in the East and the Far East have emerged from their former dependent condition.

The second point to bear in mind is that most of these newly-independent countries are dreadfully over-populated in relation to their existing resources, and that most of them in consequence have neither the necessary capital nor the