

intervention in international affairs has important implications for us in the Western world.

We will not understand this development unless we realize the significance of the emergence since the end of the last war to complete political independence of a group of densely populated former colonies in Asia and Southeast Asia. As a consequence of their new political and international status, these countries have come to realize as never before the great gulf which separates their economies and their standard of living from those of the more technically advanced nations in the Western world. Their leaders, in a new spirit of national pride and confidence, have turned with dedication and determination to the vast problems of eradicating starvation, disease and ignorance which for so long had been the accepted lot of their fellow-countrymen. It is accepted no longer.

To solve these problems, they needed guidance and help in a wide variety of technical and scientific matters; as well as capital assistance. They could not secure these completely from their own resources. The normal methods of acquiring sufficient capital were not open to them, since the savings from one year to another were either slight or negligible; and, in view of the rapidly rising populations, to withdraw resources from consumption would have imposed severe hardship on standards of living already extremely depressed. So Canada, together with other member states of the United Nations, have tried to help by providing capital and technical assistance and in other ways. This effort has been strongly supported by most of the nations of the world, with the noteworthy exceptions, until just a little while ago, of the countries of the Soviet bloc. These latter took little interest in the activities of United Nations Social economics and humanitarian agencies in this field; contributed little or nothing to their support, and criticized and depreciated their work. Support for them was left to the free nations of the world. In addition, of course, Canada, together with other members of the Commonwealth, financed the Colombo Plan in which many important countries outside the Commonwealth, notably the United States, now also participate. There were also other arrangements for economic assistance.

It has been upon this stage of international co-operative effort that the Soviet Union and its satellites have somewhat unexpectedly appeared, and have begun to play a role which, while more effective as yet in the field of political propaganda than actual aid, has, nevertheless, important potentialities for good or evil. These communist newcomers possess very great resources and their achievements