

Thailand and a part of Southern China. In the U.N. project there are twenty-one states participating. They have merely scratched the surface of a development which could go far to lift up the standard of life of the people from deprivation, distress and hunger, towards comfort and decent living. It could do this; if given the opportunity and the resources. The amount now being spent in armed conflict in Vietnam and Laos over a few weeks could do the job and could help millions of people to a better life.

So I propose that the U.N. try to enlarge this project in a spectacular way, even while the political and military conflict is going on; that for this purpose, the U.N. call a conference of the states concerned - whatever their political relations - in order to make this part of Southeast Asia a centre of international, social and economic development. Finally, I propose that the U.N. Secretary-General, without delay, should visit the countries in question to pave the way for such a conference. I would like to see it held as soon as possible. Because China is not a member of the United Nations, a special development agency set up by the conference could extend the work now being done.

With this kind of great international development project, with a cease-fire followed by political negotiations, with the countries in the area given an international guarantee of neutrality and assurance of aid for peaceful development, then the danger, destruction and distress of the present hour might be replaced by peace, hope and progress.

I know that the policy and the effort of the government of the U.S.A. is directed to this end. Such an effort deserves and should receive the support of all peace loving people.

We in North America have a special duty and a special opportunity in this struggle for peace. We enjoy a high standard of material well-being and security with freedom. Our good fortune carries with it a corresponding obligation. At the moment, the most immediate obligation facing the international community - not merely the United States of America - is to restore peace, freedom and security to the people of Vietnam. If we fail here, the consequences may extend far beyond the area directly concerned. If we succeed, it could make possible new and greater progress toward a better world.