

there have been a number of definite and important achievements, but the concentration of press coverage is above all because these bodies have seen so many clashes between the totalitarians and the West.

But despite the headlines, I would be surprised if in the long run it is not generally considered that the most significant developments have been those taking place more quietly in the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly's Second Committee, which deals with economic affairs. It has been fascinating in these economic forums to see the gradually developing self-awareness, and the growing demands and pressures, from the countries of the Far East, the Middle East and Latin America, which in this context call themselves the under-developed areas. They have not been long in realizing that they form the majority in our world organization. They are the poor, and they want help. What is more, they have been getting it.

There has been much less chance to read in the newspapers about the United Nations Programme for Technical Assistance than about, let's say, disarmament negotiations, - though these latter have gone on now for some eight years, and very little progress has been made beyond some fining and pointing up of the main problems and topics which will have to be tackled if substantive agreements are ever to be reached. I do not blame the press for this: on disarmament it is easy to see and convey drama, either in a clash or in a limited procedural agreement: whereas in the Technical Assistance Programme, though there is far more that is genuinely exciting and significant, it requires considerable background knowledge or digging to understand it, and then it is more difficult to convey to those who have not this background than are debates or agreement with Mr. Vyshinsky.

But personally, I am inclined to agree with a suggestion made by Professor Arnold Toynbee, that to future generations this present period is likely to be known "less as an era of political conflicts or technical inventions, than as an age in which human society dared to think of the welfare of the whole human race as a practical objective".

The facts are still far too little known, but anyone who does know the facts and who is capable of finding joy or excitement in political and social advances, could not help but thrill to some of the achievements of the United Nations International Children's Fund, or the Expanded Programme for Technical Assistance.

A cynic might of course deny that these facts are real evidence of increased neighbourliness, by pointing out that they are in large part the result of political pressures and calculations. That is certainly true, but this, it seems to me, is not grounds for cynicism, but the reverse, for that is precisely how democracy works.