

that is, to help them help themselves. The Government of Canada are making large contributions under the Colombo Plan. About eighty million Canadian dollars have been voted by the Canadian Parliament over the last three years for the financing of a variety of specific projects to be undertaken by the three Asian governments concerned. For example, Canadian funds and Canadian technology are responsible for projects to aid the fishing industry in Ceylon for transportation improvements and the construction of large hydro-electric works in India, for irrigation works and the establishment of a cement plant in Pakistan.

Canada derives no direct material benefit from these large expenditures. The motives which actuate us and our partners are the same as those which inspired similar United States programmes. The same is true of the technical assistance and development schemes under the United Nations, in both of which Canada, like the United States also participates. We Canadians happen to be especially interested in helping the governments of our three sister nations in South Asia in their efforts to solve the staggering economic problems of their countries and raise the living standards of their huge underprivileged populations. We believe that this is not only good humanitarian behaviour, but that it is the soundest diplomacy and economics as well.

It is an evidence of Canadian interest in this aspect of our Asian relations especially that our Prime Minister, Mr. Louis St. Laurent, who has from the beginning been a first mover in these affairs, is presently on a world journey during which he has spent some time in New Delhi, Karachi, and Colombo before going on to Korea and Japan. Speaking in the House of Commons on January 29 before he left, Mr. St. Laurent said:

"Canada, I think, has welcomed the opportunity to share in the encouragement of freedom and economic improvement in Asia because we realize the importance of maintaining good relations between the Western world and the hundreds of millions of our fellow men in these ancient nations of Asia. I feel that we can maintain good relations with them only as long as we treat them on terms of complete equality, with respect for their older and perhaps somewhat less materialistic culture and achievements, and in a spirit of genuine understanding and co-operation. We must deal with them in the realization that while we may seem to have much to give they too have a very important contribution to make to the general welfare of the world."

It seems to us in Canada that the friendship and confidence of the free Asian states - and the success of their governments in achieving the betterment of their populations by democratic means - are of prime importance to the free world. It seems to us, too, that we should have special regard to the views on Asian problems of free Asian statesmen. We may not always share these views; frequently we will differ from our Asian friends. But in giving their opinions due weight and the respect we wish for our own, we will encourage that practical co-operation and mutual confidence which will be essential to the solution of the complex problems in which West and East are equally concerned. If, for example, the ideals of free and democratic government which we share with India are to survive and afford a compelling alternative to Russian, or Chinese, Communism, we must sustain and support