

our affluent, industrial, computerised jet society, we shall feel the wrath of the wretched people of the world. There will be no peace."

Lester Pearson's perception of the interdependence of nations and peoples was real long before it became fashionable to speak of that interdependence in the context of the current international dialogue. Yet, the global awareness which makes that perception real needs to become much more pervasive - the awareness of our world as a community of the human race; the awareness of brotherhood, not in terms of relationships across the frontiers of separate states, but of relationships within the frontiers of an integral human society.

When that awareness ceases to be the virtue of a few and informs the ethos of the many, we will move nearer to a pattern of international life that is responsive to the realities of interdependence. That it is not yet so, is manifest from the contradictions which afflict our modern world and which the Commonwealth in its efforts to advance understanding, and consensus, cannot ignore.

Take armaments for example: amid massive international poverty and our inability to effect a transfer of resources from the rich to the poor on a scale commensurate with need and commitment, world expenditure on armaments is now close to the obscene level of 300 billion dollars a year - nearly 840 million dollars for every day of every week; and the level is rising. Almost half the world's scientific and technological manpower, some 500 thousand scientists and engineers devote their skills to military research and armaments production.

As regards population: the world's population will double within the next 50 years - from under 4 billion to over 7 billion. Over 800 million people will have been born into the poverty and condemned to the deprivations of the developing world. It has been all too easy and simplistic to lecture the poor about soaring birth rates. When it is remembered that 5 out of every 6 children die before the age of 3 in some of the poorest countries - children are the only hope against the emptiness and helplessness of old age -- family planning in our sophisticated terms becomes a little meaningless. High birth rates clearly have not just a cause but an effect relationship with poverty and under-development.

As regards food: while one and a half billion people, a third of humanity are victims of hunger and under-nourishment, over-consumption is the life style of the rich. In a world of want, the cult of consumerism has generated such enormous waste that it is estimated that as much as 65% of the food served in United States restaurants ends up in garbage cans; and, that 25% of all the food purchased by middle class families is similarly thrown away.

As regards the environment: with the combined effects of urbanisation, industrialization agricultural methods and current life styles, our planetary