

operations. Of these matters I can speak with some direct knowledge. Therefore, I should like to take this occasion to express my gratitude for the unfailing co-operation which we in the Department of External Affairs have had from our Red Cross in its administration of designated funds for international relief. I would be puzzled to know how we would be able to provide efficient and quick relief to disaster areas abroad were it not for the experience, skill and devotion of the Red Cross people on whom we have come to rely.

In brief, the Canadian Red Cross Society and its international associates are performing a humanitarian service which could not possibly be supplied by purely governmental action. In their work, whether on a national or an international scale, the Red Cross Societies illustrate strikingly what we are convinced is one of the greatest sources of strength of the democratic system - the voluntary co-operation of public-minded citizens. There is - and there can be - no substitute for this. It is an essential basis of our democracies. It deserves our full and whole-hearted support, in every way.

This brief but grateful reference to the work of the Canadian Red Cross Society and of the International Red Cross, which is concerned with aid and assistance in so many parts of the world, brings me to a matter of great international importance about which I should like to talk to you for a few moments. This is the entry, with vigour and verbosity, of the Soviet leaders into the field of economic competitive co-existence, one aspect of which - and this is the particular phase of this subject I want to deal with - consists of alluring offers of help to materially under-developed countries, especially in Asia. This reflects a change of Soviet tactics, if not of policy, which is seen also in other fields. There is more emphasis now on "pulling" rather than "pushing" other peoples into the Communist orbit. This should cause us to reappraise our own policies and attitudes especially to those countries of Asia to which the Soviet Union is now directing its attention.

Active Soviet interest in the field of foreign aid and technical assistance is comparatively new. Before 1953, Russia's foreign aid was confined to communist countries, especially China, which had received considerable help in loans and technical assistance. Until 1953, the Soviet Union was too preoccupied with its own domestic development and its militant designs against Western Europe to use technical and economic assistance to Asia as an important instrument of policy. However, toward the end of that year there was a change, and since then Soviet Union offers of help to non-communist under-developed areas in Asia and elsewhere have increased very rapidly. This Soviet economic-political