

Mr. Pearson:

We will talk about this in NATO. I have already begun to talk about it in a mild way; as have other Canadians. I think one of the things we ought to do now is to coordinate -- that is a word we use a lot nowadays -- coordinate all our efforts for international economic assistance and technical assistance through the United Nations. By that I do not mean we should ask the United Nations to administer all these plans. The Colombo Plan is now a going concern and I would not like to see it altered. But I think we should have a United Nations committee where all these plans could be submitted and we could see what each other is doing. Also it would be a very good thing to put up to the other side; "If you really want to help in this field, let us all help together through the United Nations and if you are not willing to have your plan examined and discussed and checked at the United Nations, if you are not willing to go to the United Nations with your schemes of technical assistance, then there is something phoney about them."

Events in Russia

Chairman:

I wonder if, just in the minute we have, could we change the subject and ask you if you have any better idea than the rest of us what is happening in Russia in this tremendous attack on Stalinism?

Mr. Pearson:

No, I haven't. But, like the rest of you, I am as interested as anybody could be. I think of course, something of significance is happening. I do not see how you can take this man Stalin out of the pantheon of Communist gods and throw him into the dustbin of history without a big shock being administered not only to the Russian people but Communist parties in other parts of the world.

Press:

You were there last summer, how flexible do you think the Russians are to this sudden change of direction?