

"In Burma, deep ploughing introduced by European agricultural experts broke up the hard pan that held the water in the rice fields. The weeding of rubber plantations reduced the sap. The new tomato, which the Burmese were persuaded to grow (by technical assistance experts) because it was more productive, has a flavour they did not like, (and they would not eat it). In Turkey, experts trained abroad persuaded some of the younger peasants to remove the stones from their tilled land; when the grain sprouted, the fields of the old men had a better crop, since, in that dry climate, the stones served the function of preserving moisture. In Greece, the wheat in fertilized fields did not resist the drought as well as the wheat in other fields, and the experts realized that earlier-ripening varieties should be planted if the fields were to be fertilized. Mistakes of this sort are acceptable to people who are willing to take the risk of trying the new; but they shake the faith of those who believe in tried and proven procedure alone."

Therefore, as we all agree, it is not only necessary to have the resources to do this work; it is necessary that the work should be done in the right way and on the right principles. In that connection the principles that should underly technical assistance work were very well and impressively outlined the other day in Washington by the director of the foreign operations administration of the United States, Mr. Harold E. Stassen, when he said--and this has also been emphasized by speakers in this debate--we should not consider this activity as a form of handout or charity. Mr. Stassen said:

"Technical assistance is not a "give-away" programme. To conduct it as such would be the quickest way to destroy it. Projects undertaken should therefore be co-operative in nature and every single programme and project must be based on a careful study of local needs; local conditions, local resources available and desires of the host governments."

"The aim of such programmes is not to subsidize, not to bolster weak spots, but to lay foundations for self-improvement through work on the elimination of debilitating diseases and the control of conditions endangering health and life; through dissemination of knowledge regarding better farm methods; through the improvement of education; through providing technical advice on matters of transportation to enable people to bring the product of their toil to market, and to break the insulation of mind and body in which so many still live."

When these right principles are applied to practical projects the experience of the United Nations already--and it is a short experience--shows that some astonishingly productive results can be achieved from small expenditures and very small changes.

A year or two ago the United Nations sent a technical assistance mission to Afghanistan. In that mission were technical experts from 14 countries covering an extensive range of skills. They were sent to help the Afghan people move toward economic and social betterment. The mission included a public administrator from