

There are several other schemes that we are looking into. One for instance, known as the Ganges-Kobadak Scheme, is now being examined by a competent Canadian engineer who has just gone out. There is an area in East Pakistan where a shift in a large river has dried up six smaller ones, throwing a large area out of cultivation. By a far-seeing pumping scheme, water can be put back in these six rivers and they can be used for irrigation purposes and bring two million acres of land into cultivation again. This would have the effect of giving East Pakistan an exportable rice surplus whereas now she has only just enough to get along on and not always that.

These are the kind of things we are trying to do. There are always those who think we should be doing something else and, of course, there is no limit to what needs to be done. What we have tried to do is to find projects which will make a real contribution to the economic development of the countries we are trying to aid in Southeast Asia and at the same time, are within our own competence to execute.

#### What of the Future?

It is very difficult in these uncertain times to look too far into the future and yet we must make up our minds whether we intend to control our own destiny or whether we do not. If we look back into history and study the downfall of earlier civilizations, we find that usually they were better in every way than the barbarians who overrun them, but at the critical moment they were not big enough to see the next step and take it. It could be the same with us. The building of a safe free world is not an easy task, but if we fail to do it the lamps of human freedom and happiness can go out for a very long time. A free world cannot be, if more than half its people are starved and diseased.

There is no section of the community which is not concerned with this task and none more so than the business community. Freedom, within the framework of democratic government, is vital to business success. It seems to me that the secret, if there is a secret, of the success of the North American continent, is the freedom of business, the ability of business units to make decisions and to act quickly and efficiently on them within a proper framework of law. The ability to take decisions and carry them out quickly without hampering restrictions is what makes for success, and if we can be right a reasonable number of times, probably the business will prosper. It is this freedom to act and to cooperate which will always beat the totalitarian state.

In Asia, two great nations, India and China are developing side by side, both have drawn up plans for the future, both have the same problems. India is attempting to develop and fulfil her plan on democratic and constitutional lines. China is following the ruthless Russian pattern. The rest of Asia is watching. Obviously, China can use methods in her totalitarian state which India cannot and will not want to use. We must remember that this is one phase of our own fight for freedom and give all the help we can. The aid programmes, about which I have been talking today are but stop gaps. Today they are important, but if these nations are to make real progress, means must be found whereby they can attract capital, they must get into the swim of world trade. There are many difficulties in the way, we