

and centre, but it also consists of three Asian members of the United Nations, as well as of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada. Therefore, the policy of the Commonwealth members in respect of United Nations problems is not always the same. It would be surprising if it were when you consider the inevitable difference of approach to problems between India and, if you like, New Zealand. But the value of the Commonwealth bloc is that we are always trying to get together, and when we cannot support each other, and we do not always find it possible to do that, we do our best to understand each other's position and try to remove gaps between those positions if we possibly can. We have our meetings of the Commonwealth delegations regularly, every few days. No matter how far apart we may be on any particular issue we meet together and we try, by discussion, to understand each other's point of view and, when possible, to support each other. This is the kind of bloc that makes a constructive contribution to the Assembly work, and it is far removed from the other kind we were talking about, the Communist bloc.

Then there is another aspect of United Nations activities which has caused some anxiety among those of us who have attended the United Nations Assemblies. This is the growing feeling against what are called colonial powers; and the use of the United Nations Assembly by countries which have just recently gained their national freedom, to force the pace of national developments in colonies -- even when it would be wise, at times, probably, I was going to say, to slow up that pace. I do not mean quite that, but I believe that there are occasions when colonial peoples who are given independence are free only in name and in law and not in fact. They can become the victims of the first great power which has predatory designs on them. Perhaps it would be better for such people if they took a little more time and won their independence by a more orderly and constructive process so that when they do gain freedom they would be strong enough to hold it.

The United Nations Assembly -- and I do not think we can criticize it for this; in any event it was bound to happen -- has now become a platform for the expression of the desire and the determination of all peoples to gain independence with the least possible delay. Perhaps the greatest revolution in our time is not that of 1917 in Russia, but the revolution which is taking place among the uncounted millions in Asia and Africa; the awakening of these people from the slumber of centuries and their determination to secure not only national freedom but greater human welfare than they have ever known before. That determination is expressing itself every day at the United Nations, in practically every debate we have down there. As a result of this, unfair attacks have been levelled at what are called the colonial powers. Very often we on the Western side get impatient at this criticism of colonial powers