

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## ASIA AND THE FREE WORLD

An address by Mr. Nik Cavell, of the International Economic and Technical Co-operation Division, Department of Trade and Commerce, to the Canadian Exporters' Association, Toronto, September 24, 1953.

### The Complex World Situation

Unfortunately, we cannot these days think of any problem without first relating it to the very dangerous complex, confusing and frustrating international situation in which we find ourselves.

World Wars I and II created utter confusion, disruption of well-established trading routes, destruction of people, their homes, their property, their sense of security. The contestants in those wars are now falling slowly into their respective niches in a new and terrifying world in which two great powers, Russia and the United States have emerged as the leading protagonists of diametrically-opposed systems of government.

The struggle is not a new one. Human history from earliest times until now is one long record of the struggle of man for freedom and the establishment of a rule of law which would recognize and protect man's rights as an individual against the power of states, governments, and other aggregations of power. The fight still goes on, but whereas, in the past, those who sought - and all too often succeeded - in depriving men of their freedom were operating in relatively small areas, today the fight is on a world-wide basis and no nation can escape its outcome by hiding its head in the sand and pretending not to see its consequences. Lurking behind the situation, in all their frightening aspects, are the terrible weapons of modern war. In terms of human freedom, they mean that, if we lose the fight, we lose it for a long long time, perhaps forever. Force once established over the world can become absolute and that, together with the methods of the mass indoctrination of men's minds now available, could deal a blow to freedom from which it might never recover - and so, it seems, that man faces the greatest crisis in his history. What is he doing about it?

There is nothing much those in the grip of totalitarian power can do, even if they wanted to, so the question boils down to what we - who are still free - are doing to establish and maintain a free world. I do not propose today to talk about the defence measures we have taken here and in Europe. Obviously we must be prepared lest those who are trying to establish a totalitarian world decide to attack us with the dreadful atomic weapons we know they have - but that is not my field. Obviously, one of the most powerful factors on the side of freedom is the fact that large areas of the world are still free. It is