

Mr. Nehru loves to travel about India and see the progress that is being made. He finds it exciting to visit the new projects. Indeed I once heard him say in a public speech that he lives in a state of continuous excitement. He often speaks of his sense of high adventure when he contemplates what India is doing to make an economic and social revolution by peaceful and democratic means. He tries to communicate to the people of India his feeling of excitement at the high adventure they are engaged in.

Mr. Nehru understands the profound truth about economic development in an under-developed country such as India, that economic advance is not only good in itself, it is good because it gives the people of India more confidence in themselves and in their country, and the more confidence they have, the easier it is for them to withstand the divisive forces of regionalism, language, religion and caste, and the corrosive forces of under-employment, unemployment, sickness, hunger and hopelessness.

Mr. Nehru therefore realizes how important it is not only that there be economic advance in India but that as many Indians as possible realize that economic advance is taking place, and that they have a feeling of personal pride in the new monuments of national development - locomotive works, fertilizer factories, dams, power plants.

I have been fortunate in the period of my stay in India because it happened to coincide with the turning of the tide in India's economic affairs. India's leaders have much more hope today than they had two and a half years ago. One sign of this is that they are planning a second five year plan much larger than the present one. They believe it is essential not only to maintain the present pace of economic development but to speed it up. I am sure they are right in this.

Whether the pace of India's economic development can be speeded up to the extent necessary depends on many things, some within the control of India, some entirely or mainly outside its control, such as monsoons, political and economic developments abroad, and the extent of outside economic assistance. In the kind of world we live in no one can safely prophesy. But there are two things I can say with confidence. On the basis of past performance, India deserves to succeed. It is vitally important for us and for the whole world that India succeed.

The Indians are grateful to Canada for the fifty million dollars we have given them during the past four years to help them in their programmes of economic development. They are grateful that we no longer close our doors to immigrants from India. They do not always agree with every aspect of our foreign policy any more than we always agree with every aspect of their foreign policy, but they have a high respect for the knowledge and judgment of Mr. St. Laurent and Mr. Pearson and they appreciate the efforts the Canadian Government has made to understand India's point of view on international affairs and to narrow the gap between India's views and the views of ourselves and our allies.

There is, I can assure you, a very special feeling of friendship and respect for Canada in India.

When I return to India I shall tell my Indian friends of this conference on Canadian aid to under-developed countries. I know they will consider it as one further demonstration of the intelligent and generous interest which Canada takes in the problems of India and of other under-developed countries.