

few years under international auspices in the social and economic fields. The whole basis on which we have developed through the United Nations a programme of international economic and social co-operation has been the fundamental premise that peoples everywhere must do what they can for themselves before expecting others to assist them.

With that as a starting point, however, the international community, through the United Nations, has recognized that in large areas of the world there is a serious lag in social, health, educational and economic development; that this lag stands as a threat to the wellbeing - indeed to the peace - of the entire world community; and that this lag cannot be overtaken without some form of international assistance to supplement the maximum effort which can be made by individual nations themselves.

Self-help is the foundation of sound philanthropy. But self-help alone is not enough.

Much as we all cherish the view that peoples should lift themselves to independence and self-sufficiency by their own boot straps, we know that today many can hardly reach their boot straps without help from their more fortunate neighbours. Realization of this fact lies behind and motivates what is being done today through the United Nations to ensure a better balance of opportunity and a more equitable distribution of the fruits of world progress among all peoples.

The diverse achievements of the United Nations in the economic, social and humanitarian fields touch upon almost every aspect of human endeavour. The programme of Technical Assistance to Underdeveloped Countries, initiated in 1950, has far-reaching implications for all humanity. This programme and related projects outside the United Nations represent the beginning of a vast and constructive effort designed to assist countries which are retarded in material development to make better use of their own resources for the improvement of their own living standards. Such programmes are not simply acts of charity. They are investments in prosperity and progress in which all will share.

Moreover, the maintenance of peace in the world today is closely related to this great work of social and economic development. While peace and freedom for all peoples must be the primary international political objective, progress toward this goal can be made meaningful for countless millions of our fellow men and women only if it opens up to them and their children new or enlarged opportunities for better health, improved standards of living and a greater measure of individual and family wellbeing. Few can live peacefully on the verge of subsistence.

As we consider in the meetings of this Conference how best we can apply the related principles of self-help and co-operative action for the improvement of the social wellbeing of the world's peoples, it will be worth while to consider the kind of world society we have evolved to date.