

We in Canada and in the United States have, I think, followed policies that have taken fair and reasonable account of the interests of the less-developed countries. We recognize, however, that more needs to be done if these countries are to be enabled to improve their standards of living at an acceptable rate. If all the advanced countries -- those of the Soviet world no less than those of the free world -- were prepared to share in that task, I am convinced that none of us should have to carry an unfair burden.

There is no prohibition that I know of against carrying coals to Cleveland. If there was such a prohibition, I should certainly be held to have infringed upon it. For I am well aware that your organization, which prides itself on being the oldest organization in the field of international assistance, needs no reminder of the magnitude of the challenge of a world in which affluence and poverty are so unevenly distributed. But I am also convinced that, if we are seriously to face up to that challenge, this would call for a new spirit and new attitudes. And I found it difficult to think of a gathering of men where that new spirit and those new attitudes were more likely to find reflection than in your gathering here this evening. Seventy-five years ago your organization dedicated itself to the concept of world service. The world has changed in those 75 years, but the need for world service remains undiminished. If anything, it has become more pressing than ever before. If we have in mind -- as surely we must have in mind -- the urgent aspirations of men and women the world over for a better, a more secure, a more dignified life, then there is only one conclusion for us to draw: we are all in world service today.

We have moved a long way towards what you so aptly describe, in your proclamation of policy, as "a sharpened sense of the interdependence and common aspirations of mankind". I would like to think that our progress has been progress in the Christian way of life. For, if there is any central theme to our Christian faith, it is surely the dignity of man and his equality in the sight of God. I know that it is this conception of world service as living religion that has guided you and will continue to guide you in all your work. As you enter upon your fourth quarter century, may God's guidance and God's blessing be with you.

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