

I have sent, as I know the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) has, congratulatory messages to the prime ministers and foreign ministers of these three countries, and it is our wish and our hope that the spirit of reconciliation will continue in that island which has been so unhappy.

#### Aid to Underdeveloped Countries

Perhaps the most significant discussions at the Thirteenth Session of the Assembly had to do with matters in the economic and social fields. There was manifested to an encouraging degree a willingness on the part of the industrially developed countries to assist in the development of the economic and social potential of their less-developed fellow members. I think it is opportune for me to mention at this stage what Canada is seeking to do in the way of helping underdeveloped countries, particularly our partners in the Commonwealth, to solve their problems of economic development.

The problem, of course, can be stated in very simple terms. It is astonishing, it is distressing to realize that close to three-quarters of the human race live in conditions where poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy are endemic. Many of these countries have emerged recently from colonial status. They now have their political independence and they are seeking, quite properly, not selfishly but in terms of the development of their own countries, to bring the standards of living of their people closer to those of the industrially and technologically advanced countries. Translated into economic terms this means that these underdeveloped countries must invest enough of their resources year by year to reach the point where economic growth can begin to sustain itself. It can be done in either of two ways. It can be done by their relying on their own savings, but when they are beset by impoverishment, illiteracy, disease and hunger how can they do that? They might do it under some leader who would adopt totalitarian processes and would seek to take whatever savings they had. We would not be happy about that type of government growing up in these new nations. The alternative is for the West to help invest in this great human endeavour. Otherwise these underdeveloped countries which have recently gained their independence may be prone to accept blandishments and offers from other parts of the world. Surely Canada is justified in making contributions to assist these countries. Indeed, to do otherwise would make it difficult for us to reconcile our actions with the principles for which we in the free world stand. I also suggest that it would be difficult to reconcile with the concept of the partnership of the British Commonwealth as a community of free and independent nations.