

of us who have been at the United Nations know from experience that if there is a speech by Mr. Vyshinsky, which is bound to be controversial, or if there is a discussion of the admission of communist China to the United Nations, the galleries will be filled, the delegates' seats will be filled, the television cameras will all be running and the headlines will appear the next day in bold form. But a meeting which may have been held in a committee room in the same building to discuss how to increase food production or eradicate malaria in some Asian or African country will not, I fear, get very much attention or very much publicity. Nonetheless this is important work and we should, I think, be proud to make our contribution to it, as we in this country are doing.

This kind of international technical assistance work and economic aid suffers from two weaknesses, or at least it gets opposition from two sides. There are those who are cynical about it, who are un-cooperative, who do not believe in throwing our money around in foreign countries for what they would call international charity--though it is not charity--and who react in the wrong way to schemes of this kind, the advantage of which is very often long range rather than immediate. But this work sometimes suffers also from a surfeit of sentimentality and a shortage of practicality on the part of those who would pour funds into projects which would do no good to the people whom they are meant to assist, and might under certain circumstances even do them harm.

There is a danger in this field of attempting to do too much in the wrong way, as has been pointed out by the hon. member for Victoria, British Columbia (Mr. Fairey); to do it our way because it is our way, not because it is necessarily the right way. Those dangers have been emphasized in a very useful and interesting publication which has been printed under the auspices of UNESCO and edited by Dr. Margaret Mead of New York, called "Cultural Patterns and Technical Change". She has this to say about the wrong approach to technical assistance:

To introduce change effectively, it is necessary to know existing conditions. Where it involves implementation by people, it must first be accepted. Otherwise the new proposals, however simple, will be defeated. When pest control is imperative, people will nevertheless release the rats from their traps. Where immunization of cattle is necessary farmers will hide their cattle. And where land reform is introduced without accompanying measures for a reform credit system, the land will again be concentrated in the hands of a few within a few years. And since change is proposed in the interests of human welfare, it is important to see to it that it is introduced constructively or, at any rate, with a minimum of disruption and destruction of established inter-relationships and values. Basic attitudes, concepts, and values are, therefore, here considered.

Then she quotes some very interesting examples of what follows when these right principles are not applied to technical assistance and aid. I again read from her publication: