

vast amount of work which will have to be done by the people themselves to improve the economies of Southern Asia. What these projects do is to give sympathy, encouragement, example and incentive to these peoples in their tremendous undertakings of help themselves.

The greatest need is to improve agricultural processes and increase food production and inevitably the great bulk of that work must be carried out by the people themselves. While we can assist, the people who live in those countries must--and they want to -- control their own destinies and work out their own salvation.

Since I got home on March 17 I have read a most interesting article, "Irrigation and India's Food Problem", in the March issue of the Canadian Geographical Journal which I commend to all of you. It is written by the Rev. R.M. Bennet who was for years an engineer officer in the Indian Army and later a Baptist missionary in India and is now Secretary of the Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

He concludes with these words:

"This is the beginning of a new age in India. It can be an age of very great advance. India is the acknowledged political leader in India. If we in the West have the courage of our convictions and the imagination to grasp this day of opportunity with sympathy and understanding, by standing with India, it could mean the expansion of freedom and opportunity for a greater proportion of the world's population than ever before".

The people of Southern Asia, like the people of Canada -- and the average person is not much different the world over, he had the same hopes and aspirations -- these people are engaged in a high enterprise of national development. To carry that enterprise to a successful conclusion they too need stability and peace in the world. I said a moment ago that Westerners were regarded with suspicion in Asia but that does not mean that the people there do not want peace and stability as much as we do and are not willing to work with us in achieving those ends, once we can convince them we are on the right road. But we cannot expect them to assume that our way is always the right way.

The views of the governments and peoples in Southern Asia on the way they can most usefully help to maintain world peace are not all identical with the views of the government and people of Canada on the efforts which Canada can most usefully make.

But we should not forget that until we signed the North Atlantic Treaty, we in North America had generally held the view that it was preferable not to make precise commitments in advance as to the action we would have to take if ever there was an outbreak of war. That was our traditional position until six or seven years ago. That seems to be India's position now. And I do not think we in Canada have any more right today to urge India to change its policy than we had in June 1940, when the Western world was crashing about our ears, to urge the United States to change its policy. We hoped for a change and we expected that