

The New World is far more complex and dangerous than any known before. The explosive population increase, accompanied by comparable revolutionary trends in world opinion, has unleashed forces that men may channel but not stem. These multiplying millions, with their pyramiding demands for a better life, are one result of our science and technology. At the same time, our technology offers greater hope than ever before of providing for the material welfare of mankind. But social, political and economic institutions have lagged behind so that our scientific achievements have not only enlarged our vistas and increased the heights to scale, but have deepened the depths of man's alternative fate.

When I was born there were only 1.5 billion people in the world. You graduates may live to see a world of 6 billion people, struggling not merely for subsistence, but for the material means for a better life. In the 19th century world population only doubled. In this century it may multiply by four. By 1980 Asia may contain more people than all the world in 1930. One must wonder whether our ideas and institutions for international co-operation are not tailored to the population pressures of an earlier age.

In the under-developed areas of Asia, Latin America, and Africa, 70% of the world's population lives. There a new idea is developing with revolutionary force -- the idea that all the peoples of the world should be able to benefit from technological change. The Soviet offer of material salvation adds urgency to the need of the adoption of measures now.

In an apparent endeavour to outflank the political and military defences of the free world, the Soviet Government has launched an all-out attack on the vulnerable and comparatively weakly defended economic front of the free world. Less than a month ago an eight-nation conference of the Warsaw Pact countries made its plans which are designed to extend political controls over needy countries.

The U.S.S.R., in changing its emphasis, demands counter-action on the part of the western nations. Counter-action requires not only the mobilization of western resources to assist under-developed countries but co-operative action to meet the Soviet trade offensive.

The uncommitted world is watching the comparative economic performance of the Communist and free worlds, judging which system provides the greatest economic progress and stability. Expanding trade could be the strongest weapon of the free world in the defence of freedom, but at the moment is the weakest.

The monetary reserves of most of the countries of the free world are inadequate to sustain expanding trade and economic growth. The supply of investment capital is quite inadequate