

PART I

INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSIONS¹

A. NATIONAL GOALS AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICIES

Nations and civilizations have risen to great heights of accomplishments more by the glory of achievement than by the negative desire for self-preservation. Except in the face of an immediate threat to their security, broad popular support for national or community goals must be based on the promise of positive achievements which capture the imagination and provide a desire for identification with a movement embodying the loftiest ideals of which mankind is capable of holding.

While our national goals in the field of foreign economic policy must be related to our social and political well-being as a democratic nation, we do not believe that they can be couched merely in terms of anticommunism or national preservation. What is needed therefore, are positive objectives which will encompass both our interest in the preservation of our traditional freedoms and way of life as well as our interest in helping the rest of mankind achieve economic and social progress.

Political developments in the United States as well as in other countries have forced national governments to assume a responsibility for economic progress and welfare for the Nation as a whole. Similarly, international political developments are forcing the more opulent nations of the world to assume an international responsibility for social and economic progress, the equalization of opportunities, and a reduction in the disparities in levels of living among members of the non-Communist world.

The need for revising our foreign economic policy goals

U.S. foreign economic policies and programs frequently engender more than a minimum of controversy, not alone at home but to our consternation, in countries which have the most to gain by them.

Too often we justify a particular foreign economic policy or act to ourselves by pointing up how superbly anti-Communist it really is and how it will help us win the cold war. To the underdeveloped people who are on the receiving end, we justify the same act by telling them how it will raise their standard of living. The echo of the American debate is ringing in their ears and they wonder how sincere we are—whether we are not just trying to buy them off.

Why should we be ashamed to admit that we are concerned, and deeply concerned, with the well-being of mankind? Why should we try to obscure the simple truth that our well-being is dependent upon the well-being of others?

¹ Pt. I has been prepared by Raymond F. Mikesell, professor of economics, University of Oregon. It sets forth the basic rationale underlying the entire study and summarizes the conclusions found in the papers on specific aspects of economic policies toward less developed countries, which constitute pts. II, III, IV, and V.