

It follows necessarily that the West will have to give priority to the countries we have already mentioned, and postpone consideration of this massive commitment in Asia and Africa by ten years or so. In the meantime, present technical and financial aid should be continued and possibly increased for humanitarian reasons, irrespective of the fact that we do not expect that it will in the least change the situation for the time being.

THE ATLANTIC CORE

In the meantime we will hopefully also have set our Western house and its adjoining areas in order, and gained more strength. From that expanded and consolidated platform the problems besetting the vast human masses of Asia and Africa can then be systematically tackled with some better chance of success.

Advancing this conclusion, I realize that ten years is rather a long time for a human being, and even more so for a suffering human being. But it is not a long time in history.

The contrary solution would be self-defeating. The world, East-West-South-North all together, would be doomed to bankruptcy, should large (and yet insufficient) resources be prematurely drawn into the blotting paper named Asia and Africa. And probably none of the other objectives we have indicated for the next decade would be accomplished.

The unitary concept of the world we have expounded as a basis for our thoughts for the future rests on the assumption that the Atlantic core be there, and that it will exude vitality and guidance.

Although the Atlantic Community of the United States, Canada and Europe is our foremost concern and hope, I will not deal with it here, beyond saying that I believe it represents quite an attainable objective for the early seventies.

Let me, however, make a few observations about Europe, the old yet respectable continent with traditions, vested interests, divisions, contrasts and contradictions, and which represents the crux of the matter.

It is much harder to correct and amend rather than create anew, and Europe is an example. Europe has already caused two world wars; the germ is still latent, fortunately inactive and perhaps rendered innocuous. There is also the danger that new affluence may soften its societies, dampen the driving force and imagination its best spirits must possess at the present juncture.

DISARRAY IN EUROPE

Moreover, Europe is presently at low ebb. Disarray in the EEC, difficulties in the ECSC, gloomy economic outlook for England, uncertainty in Germany, Scandinavia going through a recession, Spain still reluctant to adopt modern institutions, Italy slow in reforming and modernizing her structures, Gaullism rampant not only in France.

In spite of these real dangers, these shortcomings and these psychological obstacles, there is, in my opinion, room for optimism. Within 18 months from now all internal custom barriers will be abandoned in the EEC; and the great majority of people want the United Kingdom in. Most European corporations and many American ones, too, plan ahead with an integrated European market, not against it. Public opinion is mature. Many other instances may be offered that European unity-economic integration at least—is not too far off.

The day the Europeans find themselves free from their present divisions and inhibitions, and realize the marvelous adventure they are about to embark upon, all of them together, a new Europe will emerge and the stage will be set, I believe, for another Renaissance.

But in the context of the world situation, Europeans cannot consider Europe merely as a new continent-state whose birth is nothing more than the integration of an array of nation-states. They must conceive it as Europe-plus. They must form it with the objective of marching towards an Atlantic Community, with a keen sense of their responsibilities and chances at this juncture in history.

And in this process the influence of the United States on Europe will be enormous. The major burden of steering the future course of humanity and shaping our destinies certainly resides with the United States of America, at least pending the creation of the Community.

There are the authentic and effective levers of power. There a new society is growing out of its continental confinement, out of its obsolete inclination for iso-