

The task is nothing less than to enrich the hopes and the existence of more than a hundred million people. And there is much to be done."

Much has been done since then—more than we could reasonably have hoped. Thirty-one nations have joined to build a Bank, and the nations of Free Asia have joined to strengthen a continent.

The task now is to capitalize on the progress of the past 30 months.

The Congress knows this record of progress. Its Members have been deeply involved in the birth and growth of the Asian Development Bank.

Now the question is whether the United States will join other nations to provide the Bank with a new dimension of productive effort in the basic areas of human need.

The United States knows many needs in this critical hour. Many worthy causes compete for our time, our attention, and our limited resources. In the last analysis, only the people's representatives in Congress can decide where the priorities lie.

I offer this proposal because I believe whatever we do to strengthen Asia, and to enable her people to achieve security and growth in the years ahead, is in our national interest—and thus deserves consideration among our national priorities. In that spirit and with that understanding, I urge its consideration by the Congress.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 26, 1967.*