

is sufficient testimony to the attendance of this spirit at the Preparatory Committee meetings. Through their labors, we can see that such cooperation, and only that kind of cooperation, can carve unanimity of regional purpose out of the hard rock of national self-interest.

It is this communal spirit that the ADB has been commissioned to foster throughout the ECAFE region. I feel certain that regional cooperation is the key to solving many of the issues which have been raised by the distinguished Governors. For example, comparative economic advantage for any one country can only be understood within the context of the capabilities and resources of the other countries in the group. And price stability is far easier to achieve by collectively discussing the issues than by individually dictating the desired results. Ironically, therefore, it becomes clear that in many instances, national self-interest can best be served through collective efforts.

However, the simple interchange of ideas cannot alone usher in economic prosperity. A nation cannot presume to draw from the storeroom of international experience without contributing something in its place. It is the question of how to replenish this supply which leads us to the second of the two roads that I mentioned. Backed by the considerable judgment and wisdom of our non-regional colleagues, the nations of Asia have the opportunity, and more significantly, the obligation, to play an active role in determining their own destiny. This theme of controlled destiny found the same eloquent expression in the statements of the distinguished Governors as did regional cooperation. I would reiterate that the greatest measure of help will surely accrue to those nations that take the lead in helping themselves. Many of the countries in this region are blessed with an abundance of natural resources. They are also beginning to develop the depth of leadership necessary to effectively employ the complex tools of modern technology. Many more leaders are needed however, and until they are ready, the few must shoulder the burden of the many. But even the so-called "teeming masses of Asia" need not necessarily be a burden. They represent one of the great untapped labor forces in the world today. If each nation can take the steps necessary to harness this wealth of potential productivity, the trend toward an increasingly unfavorable gap between Gross National Product and population can be halted.

These goals must be, and I believe, will be realized. But the challenge is immense and the problems staggering. It was the recognition of these certain difficulties that pointed up the need for