

DIPLOMACY:

A NEW DIMENSION

Prior to World War II, many of the countries of this region were merely fragments of vast and impersonal colonial spheres of influence, with little more than a secondary hand in charting their own course. The Asian diplomat, is, today, the emissary of his own independent nation, striving to establish its own national identity, endeavoring to satisfy its own needs and ambitions, and beset by its own indigenous set of problems.

During the pre-war era, there were clear lines of demarcation between the "haves" and the "have nots", the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak. Diplomacy then consisted of the countries in the former group vying for the control of those in the latter, in the interminable struggle for the balance of power. It is disconcerting to note that the configuration of "haves" and "have nots" has altered only slightly. And, I must admit, that it is sometimes difficult for developing nations, even in the modern world, to envision a much more meaningful role for themselves, as long as this struggle persists.

However, there is a significant new dimension to diplomacy today — the dimension which Mr. Eugene Black so aptly named "the diplomacy of economic development". This dimension is predicated upon what the former World Bank President terms the "balance of hope" for the developing countries. If my understanding of this thesis is correct, it implies that the successful economic