

development of Asia is contingent upon the wholehearted acceptance — in fact, the stimulation and encouragement — of change; the evolution of thinking to include the introduction of new technologies into traditional societies; the transformation of methods of production from what might be termed “prayer-inspired” production to scientifically-induced production.

The willingness of the more fortunate to share their wealth with the less fortunate has historically been, at best, an occasional quality. This applies not only to the reluctance of developed nations to open their doors to the competitive products of their developing neighbors, or to make their economic surpluses readily available to countries in the throes of economic crisis. It also relates to the lamentable attitude of some minority interest groups within the developing nations, who are inclined to oppose essential land reforms, or who engage in conspicuous consumption, while viable development projects must be shelved due to insufficient capital.

To carve out a meaningful position for your countries in the international community of nations — one of which they can be justifiably proud — is the immediate challenge to diplomacy today, and I am heartened to observe it as one of the primary subjects of study by this Course. To impart to the minds of your people the thirst for technological innovation, and to their hands, the skills to effectively implement the fruits of modern science, is the first dictate of “development diplomacy”. The second, and equally urgent, is to arouse and enlighten the developed community to your needs, and to the logic of their contributing an ever-increasing amount of their technical and capital resources to the construction of a prosperous Asia. I have no doubt that an economically independent and prosperous Asia will contribute considerably more to the affluence of the developed countries, than it ever did as a region of economic satellites. It now befalls men like yourselves to disseminate this rationale in a convincing and rapid manner.

Your assignment is made exceedingly difficult by the current statistical ill-wind, which threatens to extinguish the already-faint glimmer of hope for this region. It is no easy task to sow the seeds of hope in the minds of the people, when Asian agricultural production declines to 5.5 per cent below pre-war levels, as it did this past year, or when regional rice output is one million tons less than the previous year, which itself was considerably lower than 1964's record yield. The horizon appears even dimmer when viewed through the eyes of a population which is increasing at the rate