

A VITAL ROLE BY CARE-MEDICO

TRIBUTE TO DEDICATED SERVICE

"To increase the output of our agricultural and natural resources and to raise the standard of living of our people," said Tun Razak in his address to the Care-Medico Conferetice in Kuala Lumpur in September. 1968,^M an intensified Rural Development Programme together with an impressive medical and health service is essential and a national nutrition programme must be evolved early."

Ambassador Bell has taken the liberty of more or less reciting my biography, so let me say a few words about him before I turn to Care-Medico.

I understand, the largest well-tuned bell in the world is called the "Bourdon Bell" at the riverside memorial in New York; it weighs 18½ tons.

Our "Bell" as we call him in diplomatic and government circles in Malaysia, although he only weighs something over 200 lbs is nevertheless, proportionately big. and as well-tuned as the "Bourdon Bell"!

He is big not only in stature, but at heart and is well-tuned to understanding and appreciating the needs of South-east Asia; tuned to the essential requirements of a young nation like Malaysia—its needs which are essential if we are to keep this area safe for Democracy and for democratic way of life.

During the years he has been with us here, we have learned to respect him not only as a diplomat; he seldom wins when he plays Golf or Poker with us. and knowing his high intelligence and intellectual ability. I am sure his losses are accrued more by diplomatic design than by default!

As a friend, we know that he has shown a particular interest in every unselfish humanitarian form of organisation such as yours- CARE-MEDICO organisations which are wholly dedicated service to the people. "Not only do they help people, but also, by helping people, they help freedom."

I would like to thank Care-Medico for the help that they have given to Malaysia. In Malaysia, the major emphasis so far of your programme has been on your assistance in the medical field, and all of us have nothing but praise for the contribution that your medical teams, supplies and equipment have made to our country since it first started here in 1960.

I myself have met many of the former patients who have benefited from the skill of your Neuro-Surgeons and other specialists including teams of visiting specialists who have come here to help us with their medical skills from time to time. May I take this opportunity of conveying the sincere thanks both of our government and our people for the tremendous dedicated and unselfish service which your organisation has given us over the last eight years since your first surgical unit went to work in Kuala Lipis in 1960.

Apart from the good work which the Care-Medico is doing, not only in Malaysia, but throughout the world, the other aspect which we admire, is the fact that your organisation is maintained and sustained from purely voluntary' resources, and that these voluntary resources are applied on the ground by dedicated people from both United States and from Canada.

This concept, which Ambassador Bell referred to at the beginning of his speech, is the concept that no country' should be entirely dependent on government to finance and support humanitarian activities. He said (hat individual groups can gel together, unhampered and unharnessed by government restraint, to set up valuable voluntary organisations which really do good work with tangible results for people who. strangers at first, cannot help in the end. become other than friends.

This concept also, is one which we in Malaysia are trying to develop and apply. I hope the day will come that our own humanitarian and voluntary services in Malaysia will further progress to reach the same self-sustaining standard and develop this dedicated determination to contribute to the welfare of those of our people who really need help. I hope also that our public here in Malaysia will further learn, not always to rely on the apron-strings of Government. They must further increase this initiative to contribute both in finance and energy towards developing voluntary and privately-run institutions for the benefit and welfare of the less fortunate of our citizens. This is true democracy in practice!

Our philosophy in Malaysia, is that the greatest defence of the principles of Democracy in a developing nation such as ours, is in fact Development—a programme of development designed to establish a stable economy and a higher standard of living for our people!

Realising that everything cannot be achieved at once, our programme for progress is phased into logical steps forward. The first step was to build up a strong economic infrastructure as a foundation for further action. It should be an intensified Rural Development Programme to increase the output of our agricultural and natural resources and to raise the standard of living of our people by all possible means available to us.

As a result of the application of our Development Plans, Malaysia has made impressive progress in the area of medical and health services over the past ten years. As a result of this progress, some problems of public health which were serious in the past are no longer so pressing. Epidemic diseases and serious malnutrition which pose a challenge to development in many other countries are generally not a problem in Malaysia.

It is my view that our health programme for Development must now go beyond the target of a preventive health programme and must not stop after the eradication. We must go to a step beyond this towards a positive health programme, particularly, in the field of nutrition. We must advance from the malnutrition of the past through the norm of adequate nutrition and achieve the aim of what I call, for want of a better word, ⁴⁴multinutrition^{%\} both for our farmers on the land and our children in the schools.

I visualise the implementation of an even more intensive programme on nutrition to ensure that each and every farmer, by virtue of being healthy and well-nourished, can put in a hard day's work and obtain the maximum productivity from his land. Similarly, I visualise a programme to so intensify our nutrition programme for schools that our children are so well-nourished that, as a result, their brains are alert to the maximum to enable them to absorb to the full, the benefits from instruction in their class-rooms and play-grounds.

The history of mankind falls into so many categories. First, there was pre-historic man, then pre-neolithic man, then pre-Coco-Cola man, then the "pre-Vitamin and pre-Protein man."

Bui our problem is that many "pre-'Vitamin people" still exist in the rural areas of our country!

In spite of all the advice and papers available from world experts on this subject. I still feel that there must be more modern methods and techniques evolved to achieve a real break-through, with quick results, on nutrition. I do not think that the answer lies entirely on lectures and lessons on nutrition or entirely on extension services devoted to practical education on nutrition.

I agree that such programmes are essential, but. although I am no expert. I would like to examine the possibility of evolving new means to achieve quicker results from a national nutrition programme. Any intensified programme on nutrition falls well within the area of the aims and objects of Care-Medico, and we welcome any further assistance in this field which your Organisation wishes to offer.

Another aspect which affects us regarding giving better food-energy generating food—to our people, lies in the possibility of developing, what I call, the "Up-lands" of Malaysia which stretch from Fraser's Hill to the Cameron Highlands which are. as the crow flies, a distance only of some 45 miles along the mountain backbone of West Malaysia.

There appears to be in this potential hill area, at an average of four or five thousand feet high, a potential development area for the growing of health-giving vegetables and fruits and other crops which we normally import from temperate countries. My Government is currently considering whether or not it is feasible to develop this potential. At present we import vegetables and fruits to the value of something in the region of 56 million Malaysian dollars per year.

After a proper feasibility study of this Up-land potential has been completed, it may be possible to evolve a Plan with the active participation of both international and local capital, invested in joint ventures, to develop this valuable hill area. The essential ingredients of a balanced diet, to become no longer a luxury, but a common-place dish, can be made available in the most humble of homes. Apart from enhancing our national nutrition programme, a considerable savings in the out-flow of foreign exchange can be made.

The Pahang Government has already taken the initiative by setting up a Fraser's Hill Development Corporation. The vision of the future does not preclude a pattern of hill development stretching from Fraser's Hill to Cameron Highlands, and even further to the plateau of Terengganu. This may become a national asset making a tremendous contribution both to the development and health of our country' as a food, meat and protein producing, agriculture area—to say nothing of the potential of crops such as coffee, tea, quinine, etc. This new agricultural area will, no doubt, ensure a supplement diet to our people without depending too much on canned and frozen imports.

THE SECOND CONGRESS BUMIPUTRA

MARA'S SUCCESS HAS ALREADY SURPASSED ALL EXPECTATIONS

The success achieved so far by such new organisations as the MARA, the FAMA, the Federal Land Rehabilitation and Consolidation Authority and Bank Bumiputra was recalled by Tun Abdul Razak when he gave the keynote address at the opening of the Second Congress Bumiputra at Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman on 7th September, 1968. He urged those present, in their deliberations, to focus on the future and not waste time on petty matters of the past "but rather illuminate your ideas with the hope of the future

With the holding of this Second Congress, you see for yourselves that the Alliance Government is true to its promise that it will review the various efforts undertaken by the Government to implement projects and programmes for improving the economic livelihood of the Bumiputra. The Alliance Government not only stands firm on its promises but also stands firm in fulfilling whatever it promises.

The Alliance Government stands ready and willing to face the people, so that the people can decide and judge for themselves