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WELCOME SPEECH

By

HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SRI JAYA CHAMARAJA WADIYAR
BAHADUR G.C.B; G.C.S.I.

Governor of Mysore

I have very great pleasure in welcoming the distinguished delegates and visitors to the Tenth Session of the International Conference of Agricultural Economists. It is a matter of special gratification to us in this country to welcome the Conference on the first occasion on which it is being held in Asia. There is perhaps a peculiar appropriateness in the Conference holding its meeting in this part of the world in which the large majority of the population has throughout history subsisted directly on agriculture and which is yet in need to-day of the greatest measure of research on every aspect of the agricultural way of life. May I also look on this as a recognition of the earnest and increasing efforts of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics? In the twenty years of its existence the Society has achieved an impressive record of research studies and publications bearing on the social and economic problems of rural India.

Many economic and social ills arise from the inadequacy of agricultural production and its failure to keep pace with the growth of population. In several countries the progress that has been made so far has not gone much beyond the provision of food for the ever-increasing population at the same old levels of quantity and quality. Procurement of food for the people still continues to be a preoccupation of Governments. Foreign exchange resources have to be diverted to food imports at a time when other sectors in the national economy have an urgent need for capital goods.

As part of our effort to achieve many-sided economic development by means of our Five-Year Plans, we in this country have been striving to improve agriculture by means of policies and programmes based on a systematic study of our resources and our agro-economic conditions. We have been trying to achieve a proper balance between the interdependent demands of agricultural development and industrialisation. Technical advance in agriculture can hardly be achieved without industrial progress while in the last analysis agricultural output is the primary basis for industrialisation.

The task is arduous. Improvement of farming technique, reclamation, conservation, irrigation, transport, price and profit, marketing and trade, food supply, nutrition,—all aspects of the problem have simultaneously to receive attention. Our Community Development Programme, which is an integral and

important part of our plans, has been proving an increasingly powerful force for the regeneration of the countryside.

Like other nations in Asia we are now in a critical period in which development has to proceed with the greatest rapidity. For a large part of the world the achievements in the conquest of space have to be matched by similar achievements in the conquest of time. In this task of agricultural and economic regeneration the talent and experience of more advanced countries are of the greatest assistance to us. International co-operation is the best guarantee for the achievement of quick and satisfactory results in the rehabilitation of backward economies on which depends the peace and stability of the world as a whole.

The participation of as many as seventy nations in the labours of this Session is a happy indication of the enthusiasm available for the promotion of schemes of world welfare. If only some way could be found without delay for the elimination of war and threats of war, international policies could then be directed, with peace and goodwill, solely and effectively towards the improvement of the health, comfort and cultural well-being of every region in the globe.

The people of India are proud and happy that in this great task we are led and represented by our beloved Prime Minister who stands out as an inspired and tireless worker in the cause of peace, justice and friendliness among nations.

If I may say so, I feel personally very happy that you are now meeting in Mysore City. I hope you will like the aspect of the place, its equable weather, its peace and quiet, its synthesis of the rural and the urban, and the mountains and rivers and the flora and fauna of its neighbourhood.

I offer you a cordial welcome. I wish you a pleasant sojourn in our country and all success in your deliberations.