

During my stay in Taiwan I was received in audience by His Excellency the President and Madame Chiang-Koi-Shek. In Japan I had a very pleasant audience with His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan. Very useful and cordial talks were held between me and these two distinguished Heads of State. My audience with His Excellency the President of Korea was of particular significance to me. He was gracious enough to confer on me the Order of Service Merit, First Class - an honour which I highly appreciated. This he said was in recognition of my services to my country in successfully leading it to independence in the face of overwhelming odds. Above all, His Excellency said the Order was in recognition of the stand I took against communist aggression. I also had most useful discussions with the Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers and Ministers of Economic and Industrial Development in all the host countries.

In Thailand my visit, short as it was, had special significance. It coincided with the holding of the Fifth Asian Games and the South East Asia Trade Fair - two attractions patronised wholly by the non-communist countries of Asia. Both the standard of performance among the competitors and the quality of exhibits were very high.

Resulting from these visits, I have gained certain impressions of the countries of the East. Like Lesotho, most of them are developing countries; yet they differ from us in certain important respects. Their approach to national questions lays emphasis on development and the raising of living standards rather than on politics and empty slogans. They have a clear understanding of our unique situation in relation to our neighbours in the Republic of South Africa. Their practical turn of mind fits them well to appreciate the nature of our problem better than most of our friends in the Continent of Africa. While they are not in doubt about our attitude to apartheid, they are careful not to cause any unnecessary embarrassment. They understood that our bread and butter interests are interwoven with the South African economy - South Africa being the only potential customer for the water which is one of our principal natural resources.

I was particularly impressed by the way the Oriental people plan their work before it is embarked upon. In the field of planning their's is a talent much superior to any I have seen before. All natural development projects are graphically represented which gives a sense of reality. Concrete models are made to show what they have in mind. One readily gets the impression of people who know what to do and when and how to do it. Their water schemes are advanced. Their primary and secondary industries are forging ahead at a very rapid rate. Not only do they enjoy the benefits of careful planning but also the advantages