

TRYGVE LIE

Secretary General of the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS - NATIONS UNIES
Department of Public Information
Press Division
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York

Press Release M/326
12 September 1947

File

CAUTION -- ADVANCE RELEASE

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR QUOTED FROM BY PRESS OR RADIO BEFORE
6.30 PM (EDT) SUNDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1947.

ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS
ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND

File Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, 14 September 1947

Although you are well informed about day-to-day activities of the United Nations I hope it may interest you, if I can give you a personal review of the general situation as I see it.

The first thing to be reported at this time is that the United Nations organization, as outlined by the Charter, is now practically complete and in working order.

The Secretariat, which consists of about 2,800 international civil servants, chosen from all parts of the world, has been established on a permanent basis and its work is improving.

Our new headquarters site has been chosen. Within a fairly short time I hope we will have a permanent home on the East River in Manhattan.

I will spare you the details of the questions handled by the United Nations organs. You will be interested to know, however, that in the year which ended on June 30th the General Assembly held 443 Plenary and committee meetings, the Security Council 347, the Economic and Social Council 168, the Trusteeship Council 56, and other United Nations bodies held 897 meetings. Altogether there have been 1911 meetings.

The mere physical work of organizing and handling these meetings has been enormous.

Although the United Nations is still in its infancy, with only 20 months of active work behind it, it has not been treated like an infant by the Nations which make up its membership.

It has been called upon by the Governments to consider and to take decisions upon many of the most difficult and controversial problems in our post-war world.

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These problems have ranged from Greece to Atomic Energy; from Palestine to the question of an international security force; from Iran, Indonesia and Egypt to the treatment of refugees and the aspirations of the people of Western Samoa; from disarmament to Syria.

During the few months of our existence we have covered the world, in the political field alone. With less fanfare we have ranged over the world in our consideration of economic and social matters. The establishment of an Economic Commission for Europe and an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East is of the greatest importance.

There have been some successes in dealing with some political problems which have faced the United Nations in the Security Council and the General Assembly. There have been many unpleasant failures to reach agreement in the Security Council. In some cases where failure has already been reported, however, the fact is that the discussions are still going on and can be expected to go on for some time to come, with a possibility of success in the long run.

What I want to stress in connection with these political questions, which have aroused so much attention and have led to so much discouragement on the part of the general public, is that they have all been discussed openly and in full view of the world.

I regret that these discussions have often been carried on in what has seemed to be an unfriendly and uncompromising spirit. The determination of the Nations "to practice tolerance and to live together in peace with one another as good neighbors", as set forth in the preamble of the Charter, has appeared to be forgotten on more than one occasion. Yet I am sure we all agree that it is better to have had these discussions staged openly, in a forum of the nations, than it would have been to bottle up the animosities which do exist.

This in no way lessens our obligation and the obligation of the Nations, under the Charter, to work constantly and aggressively for better understanding in the spirit of tolerance and give-and-take.

When we speak of the United Nations we are referring to an organization of 55 different Nations which retain their sovereignty under the Charter.

It is these 55 different nations, working in and through the United Nations, who decide upon the volume and the character of our work.

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If those nations agree upon the need for cooperation in some special field we will have a joint effort to solve a problem.

If they are divided among themselves, for one reason or another, and prefer not to work together, then we will not have that common effort.

Any so-called success, or any so-called failure, of the United Nations boils right down to the success or the failure of the Nations themselves to work together and settle their differences.

It was our hope and our intention at the time of the San Francisco Conference that the principle of Sovereignty would not prevent the Nations from basing all of their decisions in the United Nations upon the common interest.

It is certainly most urgent today that the principle of Common Action for the good of all should be uppermost in the minds and the decisions of those who take part in our deliberations.

The United Nations must serve as a constant speed-controller, to prevent national interests from over-riding the interests of all humanity. To an increasing degree, our Assemblies and our councils must be dominated by the inescapable and relentless fact that in this small world, we are all close neighbors who must live together and work together as friends.

In the long run it is the people themselves who will decide whether or not this spirit will rule relations between the Nations. Through their governments they will decide whether the Nations are to help each other or to go their individual ways.

One Chauvinistic or insular minded people may tempt other peoples to adopt the same attitude. By the same sign, even one high-minded, tolerant Nation, with a clear comprehension of the interdependence of all Nations, can impel other Nations to think and behave in the same manner.

Decency is contagious.

In the final analysis this means that every thinking man and woman among you, or anywhere else in the World, can make a real contribution to the international order.

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There is no sense in concealing the fact that the World situation today is unpleasant both politically and economically. Economic reconstruction and improvement, on the scale required, is being seriously impeded by a political situation which shows no signs of improvement.

The whole scheme of the United Nations for the settlement of controversies and for the relief of economic and social distress is being hampered or retarded by factors beyond our immediate control.

I refer to the inability of the Great Powers to settle the terms of the major peace treaties.

I do not need to tell you, I am sure, that the United Nations itself was not expected to perform the role of a Peace Conference. The negotiations and conclusion of the Peace Treaties was left to the powers immediately concerned.

At the time we signed the San Francisco Charter in 1945 we fully realized that major issues were at stake and that conclusion of the treaties could only follow a painful and lengthy process of negotiation and concession.

At the same time, we hoped that the negotiations could be undertaken and carried through to a conclusion in a friendly atmosphere and with no unnecessary loss of time. We clearly realized that the political and economic picture of the whole world would remain affected and distorted until the Powers could come to a basic agreement on the big issues.

For one reason or another, for many reasons which seem satisfactory to the Powers, the negotiations have not yet led to a solid solution. Both Europe and Asia remain unsettled by the absence of such a solution.

It is not for me to quarrel with the position of any power or any group of powers. I can only point out that these treaties remain to be signed, that it is the duty of the Powers to conclude them, and that the consequences are what they are.

From the point of view of the United Nations and the ordinary people of all the world every day of delay is serious.

I know that I express the wish of people everywhere when I say that I hope from the bottom of my heart that the next meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers will produce positive and satisfactory results.

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It would be treacherous to the whole idea of the United Nations - a union brought about by war and dedicated to perpetual peace - to condone or to be satisfied with a chronic state of disagreement between the powers.

I feel that I must say this in regard to the general situation which exists today.

It is of great importance to look at any political situation, including the present one, with a sense of historical perspective.

If we do this we will often find that situations which, at first glance, seem to be "serious" or even "critical" or no more than the crests of waves in a sea on which there have always been waves.

It may be useful, at this moment, to compare the situation in the world today, two years after the end of the most complete conflict in history, with the situation which existed after the first world war.

It continued, to a very serious degree, on several fronts for many years. There was a whole series of small wars over a large part of the old world and, finally, even in the New World loss of life and bloodshed were enormous. The social disturbances which wars always bring with them were especially violent in their manifestations. Then there came an economic crisis, both of raw materials and means of production, which crippled enterprise and left millions unemployed. This happened despite the fact that the actual destruction caused by the first world war was small compared to the damage created in the Second World War. On top of all that the world experienced widespread epidemics and famines which claimed a fearful toll of human lives.

Large parts of the world were on a war footing or in a stage of crisis for nearly ten years after the first world war was finished.

It is clear that the situation today is far, far from being so bad. True enough the economic effects have been greater, because the Second World War was waged with far greater violence.

Differences between the victors, which always follow wars, are also evident every day.

Still, in comparison with the period after the first world war, the economic and political disturbances of the world today are not in any way as sensational as many people make them out to be.

However, astonishing as it may sound politically, the most important Big Powers are distinctly closer to each other than they were in the Twenties.

The widespread social adjustments which have taken place have found different forms. Some of these problems have been taken in hand by the former colonial peoples, through nationalistic movements for liberation.

Here, perhaps, lie the greater possibilities of conflict today.

Yet, until now, the purely warlike complications have been few and of minor dimensions. In no instance have they taken the form of open war between two or more different nations.

If the situation today is better than it was after the first world war I feel that we can attribute the fact principally to the unquestionable progress which we have made in international cooperation.

This cooperation, on a truly "global" basis, is, in fact, something altogether new as a determining factor in the affairs of the world.

After the first world war we had the League of Nations but it was regarded by many people as an association of victorious powers. This was the feeling even though two of the largest nations in the world were not members. And the fact is that the League of Nations never became a central, all-inclusive political organ.

The period which followed made it clear, at the same time, that the need for collaboration was felt by everybody.

One characteristic of the Twenties was the large number of bilateral and multilateral military and political alliances concluded between the nations.

But the development onward toward common solidarity was frustrated.

The Democracies allowed themselves to be kept apart because they had not found common ground on which they could stand. They had found no effective, common instrument for collaboration.

The enemies of fascism and nazism had learned their lesson. As a result, even when the Second World War was at its very height, they reached an agreement on a common basis for peace.

They created the United Nations, the organization which gradually has begun to become part of the international life of every nation and has impressed itself on the mind of the entire world.

I do not want to say that the United Nations organization as such has prevented a repetition of the catastrophies which followed the first world war.

The decisive factor, I believe, is that the importance, the necessity, yes, even the self-evident rightness of international cooperation is now accepted by all sensible people.

This understanding expresses itself today in a steadily growing economic, practical and political international cooperation in almost all fields. We know that all of the conferences which have been held have not been equally successful. Some of them may have looked like real fiascos. But if you analyze developments with care you will find that every negotiation, every meeting - even when the exchange of views has been impassioned - has brought the nations a little farther toward understanding.

And, as I have pointed out, during the last year we have had nearly two thousand meetings, of one kind or another.

It is on the basis of this development, seen in connection with the events of this century, and also against the background of earlier historical tendencies, that I have come to the conclusion that, with the help of ordinary men and women all over the world, permanent peace and progress can be achieved.

I have not mentioned scientific developments of the most recent years, even though they alone provide overwhelming arguments in favor of permanent peace.

I feel that the purely logical basis for belief in peace should be enough, especially when developments are seen in their historical perspective.

At the same time, I feel that we must accept the statement of men of science, that any great war would lead to the total destruction of all the nations which took part in it.

We are entitled to look forward to years of peaceful development in the relation between all nations.

We must encourage that development, and force its growth, by giving our loyalty to the idea of the United Nations and our active support to everything that it undertakes.

I should like to conclude by quoting the words of the President of the United States, in his speech at Rio de Janeiro on September 5th.

"It will take steadfastness of purpose, unremitting toil and infinite patience to achieve our goal.

"The United Nations is not a temporary expedient. It is a permanent partnership - a partnership among the peoples of the world for their common peace and common well-being.

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"The difficulties that we have encountered in this early phase in the life of the United Nations have not discouraged us. On the contrary they have increased our determination that it shall succeed".

With that spirit, ladies and gentlemen, the United Nations cannot fail.

I ask you to believe, with me, that it cannot fail.

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UNITED NATIONS
Department of Public Information
Press Division
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York

Press Release M/321
2 September 1947

CAUTION--ADVANCE RELEASE

(The following advance text of a speech to be given by Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, before the 58th Annual Convention of the National Association of Life Underwriters at Boston, Mass., must not be published or quoted from by press or radio before time of delivery--approx. 11:00 A.M. (EDT) Wednesday, 10 September 1947.)

ADDRESS BY MR. TRYGVE LIE, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
BEFORE THE GENERAL CONVENTION, 58TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF LIFE UNDERWRITERS, AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS;
WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1947

In speaking to you today about the United Nations I knew that I am talking to people who can be expected to understand why the United Nations is trying to do and to sympathize with its most basic purposes.

The aim of Life Insurance is to provide security to individuals and to their families. On a mass scale you endeavor to provide security to great groups of people.

I do not need to tell you that it is the aim of the United Nations to provide security on a ^{scale} global/to individuals, to nations and to the entire world: security against war, security against poverty and disease, security against economic and social distress.

Because of this similarity in purpose it is natural that you, who are engaged in Life Insurance work, should feel an individual interest in the work of the United Nations and a high degree of responsibility toward its success.

In this country alone it is estimated that you, who are interested in Life Insurance, come into daily business contact with perhaps two million people. As a result you constitute a permanent and highly value corps of ambassadors, who can do much to make your fellow citizens understand the deep need for security on a world basis.

I am confident that you will not fail to take advantage of such a great opportunity.

What I would like to do today is to survey the world situation, as I see it from my position in the United Nations, and to consider the risks which are involved

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In that situation. Then I want to tell you what the United Nations is doing about the situation and what I feel that the United Nations must do in the future to make certain that this situation, or any other situation, shall not lead to ruin for us all.

First of all I hope you will excuse me for saying something about "my position" as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The United Nations, as you all know, is an organization of 55 nations. This organization was formed voluntarily at San Francisco by the fighting members of the United Nations. It was designed as a means by which they could regulate their relations with one another and continue their collaboration with one another, and other democratic nations of the world, in time of Peace.

They dedicated this organization to the maintenance of peace, and the promotion of international cooperation, aimed at improving the social and economic conditions of all humanity, thus eliminating the very causes of war.

This was no exclusive club or clique. Governments representing many colors, races, and creeds and many different political systems, went into it open-eyed, solemnly determined to practice tolerance and mutual consideration.

In order to allow the United Nations to accomplish its aims elaborate machinery was designed. The most important parts of this machinery were the General Assembly, which ordinarily meets once a year and gives general directives to the organization as a whole, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council, all of which meet periodically.

There was also established a permanent Secretariat, which now consists of roughly 2,800 international civil servants, to assist the General Assembly and the other organs of the United Nations in carrying out their work.

This Secretariat is recruited from all countries which are members of the United Nations. Its members are international civil servants. In their work they are required by our regulations to give their full allegiance to the United Nations, without taking instructions from their own governments.

They are the servants of 55 different countries, or rather of a communion of 55 nations. In my capacity as Secretary-General and the head of this body of international civil servants, by the joint decision of all the United Nations, I am obliged to be impartial and equally considerate of the rights and views of all nations making up our membership.

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It may seem to some people at some times that such a position of neutrality is either immoral, or, for that matter, impossible. It stands to reason that it can be difficult. But the rule is that we, in the United Nations Secretariat, shall be impartial and I can assure you that we intend to obey our instructions. We must do this even when a lack of partiality may be interpreted as "trading with the enemy."

I emphasize these facts about the character of the Secretariat and of the Secretary-General because there has been some confusion between their position and that of the people who represent individual governments at the United Nations deliberations and, consequently, are free to take definite positions on controversial issues.

When I speak to you today I do so, not as a Norwegian or as a life-long Social Democrat, but as an international servant, whose first loyalty is to the world community.

Our job, on behalf of the United Nations as a whole, is to view things with clear eyes, to bury our prejudices, and to do everything in our power to destroy other peoples prejudices. The honest differences which do exist between the nations - and which are bound to arise from time to time in the best of circumstances - can only be settled in a decisive manner if we do approach them in an objective manner, without passion.

I want to ask you to join with me in looking at the World today in this way.

First let us consider the causes of the frictions and the differences which now divide the nations, both the immediate causes and the long range causes.

The immediate reason for many of these differences and disputes was the Second World War.

That war caused colossal destruction and loss of life in many countries, including both the victors and those which were defeated. It destroyed weak economies and it heavily damaged economies which were fairly stable before the war. Even in the case of such a rich and highly developed country as the United States it caused heavy inroads on your wealth.

It curtailed civilian production and at the same time it destroyed markets by destroying the means with which people and nations could purchase goods from one another.

It cannot be surprising that such a war left in its wake a group of tired and confused nations, poverty-stricken but determined, in the pride of victory, to defend themselves against further intrusion or even remote threat of intrusion..

Every one of them, quite naturally, was determined to defend the interests for which it considered that it had fought.

The actual end of hostilities created other problems which could not have been foreseen in all of their proportions beforehand. Vacuums left by the obliteration of Fascist or Nazi governments attracted opposing political and economic elements from outside. Political movements which had been kept under the lid for many years found vent, in all parts of the world.

Thus it was not astonishing that the post-war world was a scene of confusion and dissension and disagreement, as well as poverty and wholesale distress.

With our experience from the First World War we knew that some such thing would happen. Considering the violence of the Second World War we could not be very much surprised by the violence of the aftermath.

But there were other factors which added to the turmoil and which had been forgotten, temporarily, in the contest for mere existence.

If we look back to the days before the beginning of the war in Europe we will remember that economic as well as political troubles existed even then. Some of the proudest of the nations suffered from both kinds of difficulties and made no secret of the fact. Such difficulties were made all the more obvious because governments were calling more and more upon their resources to meet demands for an increased standard of living.

Today the nations are consequently dealing with double trouble: an acute combination of long-standing difficulties and the violent, acute problems brought by war.

It would be foolish to minimize these problems, whether they be political or economic.

It would also be foolish to allow these problems to make us lose our heads.

The thing to do is to make a full inventory of them and then to face them all and deal with them with courage, imagination and generosity.

In order to understand the role of the United Nations in this whole complex of difficulties it must be understood, first of all, that the United Nations

was never expected to play the role of a Peace Conference. It was understood, and still is understood, that the Peace Treaties were to be negotiated by the former belligerent powers immediately concerned.

In the first instance it was up to the Big Powers to decide upon the terms of those treaties and to put them into effect. This, I must emphasize, was to be done outside the framework of the United Nations.

It was our hope, at the time the Charter was signed at San Francisco in 1945, that these treaties would be concluded within a fairly short space of time and that they would form the basis of a general political and economic settlement in Europe and the Far East.

We realized that such a settlement would be necessary if the United Nations, as a world Organization, was to fulfill its many objectives. You cannot maintain a Peace until you have established Peace. Certainly you cannot hope to establish full economic cooperation between the nations unless you have a political basis for such cooperation.

Economic order is largely dependent upon political order, just as political order is largely dependent upon economic order.

Unfortunately for the world it has been impossible for the Big Powers to settle upon the terms of the major peace treaties. Frequent attempts to settle the difficulties standing in the way of those treaties have, so far, not been successful.

It is not my function to criticize the Powers for their inability to arrive at an agreement. We must recognize that some of the questions are fundamental and that concessions by the different powers are most difficult for them to concede.

What people are entitled to ask, at the same time, is that the Powers shall continue to seek agreement with one another and shall never lose sight of the fact that agreement is absolutely necessary to the world.

From the point of view of the United Nations it is simply not conceivable or tolerable that the World shall be divided permanently into several groups or camps. Such a state of affairs, if continued indefinitely, could only lead to political and economic chaos and bring endless suffering to the people.

So, I repeat, the people are entitled to expect all governments concerned to pursue the path of agreement, relentlessly and in the spirit of compromise and understanding, until agreement is reached. It would ruin everything if any government, or any group of governments, decided that it could afford a permanent lack of agreement.

I say this knowing that many conscientious and well-meaning people in many lands have grown tired of argument and are tempted to call it off.

I have mentioned this lack of agreement because it deserves full attention and because it has a serious effect upon everything that the United Nations, as an organization of 55 different nations, can do. It also affects the well-being of every nation individually and every man, woman and child on earth.

I must add immediately that I regard this as a temporary state of affairs. Although there will always be disagreements of one sort or another, between the nations, I look forward with absolute confidence to the day when the most basic and damaging disagreements, which exist today, will be resolved. They will be resolved because they must be resolved.

In any case, and I say this in all seriousness, I cannot make myself believe that this situation will be allowed to lead to another war within the foreseeable future. We, in the United Nations, are proceeding on the rock-bound thesis that there must never be another war.

Everything that I know, from observation, from the information at my disposition, and from my contacts with the leaders and the people of the Nations, convinces me that no country with the power to make war regards war as a practical proposition, now or in the future.

As for the present and for the immediate future I can add, without fear of dispute, that no country on earth can tolerate another War, even within the limits of warfare as we have known it in the past.

My immediate preoccupation is not that the air of hostility which prevails in so many quarters today may lead to an actual armed conflict of global proportions. My greatest concern is with the effect which misunderstanding has upon the whole scheme of work envisaged by the San Francisco Charter.

In the best of circumstances we have enough work laid out for us to consume the best brains and the complete energy of all Governments, working in absolute harmony, for many generations.

As I have already pointed out, social and economic conditions all over the world required drastic attention even before the Second World War. Even the most modern and prosperous countries had large masses of undernourished, undereducated, poorly housed people, suffering from lack of proper medical attention and other privileges which are required for normal, decent existence. The poorer and more backward countries suffered from conditions which were a disgrace to their fellow men.

Today the average standard of conditions has gone from bad to worse in many countries, from miserable to impossible in others.

It is the job of the United Nations, through cooperation and mutual assistance between all of its member countries, to tackle these conditions and to keep on tackling them, year after year and generation, until we have given all humanity an

opportunity to enjoy a decent life.

We can only begin to do this job with the good will and the earnest cooperation of all thinking men and women, everywhere, expressed in terms of solid contributions by their governments in the councils of the United Nations and its allied agencies.

I am glad to tell you that the United Nations has already laid the groundwork for its long-range program.

It is not my intention today to give you a complete outline of United Nations activities since the first meeting of the General Assembly in London 20 months ago. The fact is, however, that our organization is now practically complete. All of the various organs, including the General Assembly, the three councils, and the many committees and commissions working under those bodies, have done an immense amount of work.

You may appreciate the scope of this work when I tell you that, during the year between July 1, 1946 and the same date this year, the General Assembly had 443 plenary and committee meetings, the Security Council 347, the Economic and Social Council 163, the Trusteeship Council 56 and other United Nations bodies 897 meetings.

If all of these meetings have not brought positive results I must ask you to remember that the United Nations has been in operation only two years and that its program is so vast in extent that it will take generations to accomplish.

We have had to begin somewhere and we have, in fact, begun.

We are no more entitled to be discouraged today than we were during the War itself. The struggle in which we are engaged today promises to be long and difficult. We must face it with the same cool heads and brave hearts and the same spirit of sacrifice which brought us victory in time of War. And we must face it together.

In conclusion I would like to sum up my remarks as follows:

The United Nations, which is a collective and cooperative organization of 55 nations, including nations of all sizes and governments of many types and different interests, is today a working, living, body standing solidly for Permanent Peace and the common welfare of all Nations and of all peoples.

It came into being as the child of our struggle to the death against a common

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enemy. It is a permanent organization with an impelling, long-range program of human betterment.

Differences which now exist or which may arise between the Nations must not be allowed to prevent this community of nations, working as a community of nations from fulfilling its many duties to mankind.

We fully intend to maintain Peace and to make that Peace worthy of the men and women who suffered to win it.

I ask you to join me in this confident determination.

CAUTION: Hold for release on delivery at 11:00 A.M. (approx.) EDT, Wednesday
10 September 1947.

UNITED NATIONS

Department of Public Information
Press Division
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York.

Press Release M/319
29 August 1947.

CAUTION — ADVANCE TEXT

(The following advance text must not be published or quoted from by press or radio before time of delivery, approximately 2.30 P.M. (EDT) Monday 8 September 1947.)

ADDRESS OF MR. TRYGVE LIE, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OPENING THE WORLD STATISTICAL CONGRESS, HOTEL SHOREHAM, WASHINGTON, D. C.

8 September, 1947.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this opening meeting of the World Statistical Congress on behalf of the United Nations.

Your presence here testifies to the importance of the occasion. It confirms the belief of the Economic and Social Council and of the Statistical Commission that the time has come for the statisticians of the world to take stock of present activities in this field and to make proper plans for the future.

The task ahead will require the combined efforts of all countries and of all organizations. For this reason I am very glad that it was possible to arrange for concurrent sessions of the five important professional groups which have scheduled their technical and business meetings in conjunction with the meetings of the World Statistical Congress. On behalf of the Economic and Social Council I warmly welcome the delegates to these organizations to all the meetings of the World Statistical Congress. I am confident that these organizations will find it possible to work

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29 August, 1947.

closely with the United Nations in the task of building and improving the statistical machinery for international cooperation.

The mission of all statistical organizations in the years ahead is a vital one and an urgent one.

The free exchange of information on economic and social affairs among all countries in the world is absolutely necessary to economic and social advancement. We cannot cure our troubles unless we know in the first place what those troubles are. Likewise we cannot achieve international understanding, which is the basis of advancement, unless the peoples of the world are given the facts about each other. Nations are now too large, economic affairs are now too complicated and too highly inter-related for us to rely upon the accounts of returned travelers for our information on economic and social progress. We are much farther upon our course than we were in the days of Marco Polo and of Captain Cook. There is no substitute for facts, for clear and systematically organized facts. They alone can be relied upon to measure resources and the possibilities for progress and to direct policies and actions designed to achieve the objectives of all civilized peoples.

Facts are just as important for the United Nations and for the inter-governmental agencies which are being brought into relationship with the United Nations as they are for a national government or for the managing directors of a large business enterprise. The larger the organization and the more complex the problems with which it is confronted, the more need there is for comprehensive and up-to-date information, systematically organized and freely available.

I must emphasize what must be considered the three indispensable characteristics of statistical systems adequate to support and direct economic and social progress. In the first place, the statistics must be comprehensive and timely. They must be as comprehensive as the problems with which we are trying to deal. They must be sufficiently timely to record the current status of conditions in periods of rapid change. Statistics which are not up to date are of little use in dealing with current problems.

Secondly, the statistics must be carefully organized. By this I mean that they must be comparable from time to time and from place to place. This problem of comparability is especially acute when we deal with the inter-related problems of many countries of vastly different characteristics. Difficult as the problem of comparability is, it must be solved. Unless it is solved we will be seriously

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handicapped in studying and dealing with problems on an international scale.

Finally, it is obvious that statistics must be freely exchanged between all those who are working on common problems.

According to these standards, which nobody can dispute, the position today is nowhere near satisfactory.

The world is only now recovering from a statistical blackout of nearly ten years duration. The free exchange of statistics on economic and social trends and current developments was made impracticable during the war for security reasons, even among those countries whose statistical machinery continued to operate. In many countries which suffered the devastation of war, statistical machinery ceased to operate and is now being painstakingly rebuilt. In many other countries adequate statistical machinery has never existed.

It is shocking to realize that no statistics worthy of the name exist for probably half of the world's peoples. No one knows exactly how many people there are, how they make their living, or the characteristics of their social, economic and political institutions.

There is ignorance about the economic and social resources available for the development of adequate and dignified standards of living, ignorance about the most elemental facts that would highlight the condition of the society and point to possibilities of improvement.

I do not mean to imply that those concerned are unaware of the usefulness of statistics. I only want to emphasize the tremendous size of the task which must be undertaken in your field if the world is to reap the advantages of concerted action upon important common problems.

It is obvious, of course, that an adequate statistical system is to a high degree dependent on the political and economic organization within a given country. Nevertheless, the development of statistics in the areas where they are lacking is one of the urgent tasks to which we all must give our best attention.

What of the other half of the world's peoples about whom some statistics are available? Here, too, there is no room for complacency. There are possibly 30 countries which have reasonably accurate statistics on the elemental facts of birth and death; only about 25 countries have attempted to make even crude estimates of their national income. In many countries no statistics are available about education, health or sanitation, about the amount and utilization of manpower or of agricultural and industrial resources, and about the host of

other economic and social factors which must be measured in order to define the problems we wish to solve. Even in countries that are considered the most advanced we often knew more about the number, condition and progeny of livestock than we knew about human beings.

I have mentioned before that the time is opportune for the statisticians of the world to sit down together to look ahead to the problems they jointly face in organizing statistical work in countries and in areas of economic and human interest where they are lacking. The time is ripe to speed cooperative work upon measures to promote comparability of statistics from place to place and from time to time. The time is ripe to establish channels for the widest possible exchange among countries of the statistics themselves and of the methods and materials which produce the statistics.

In convening a World Statistical Congress, the Economic and Social Council was aware of all the factors I have mentioned. It was aware that the work which lies ahead of the statistical offices of the International agencies must be done cooperatively and in full recognition of the needs that it must serve. The Council wished to provide an early opportunity for a discussion of statistical problems and of the methods we have^{at}/our disposal for their solution.

The programmes for the meetings have been arranged to provide the fullest account possible at this time of the statistical activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies and to provide a cross section of the most important developments in statistical work of the national governments. The programmes will emphasize the needs for statistics by the international agencies and the methods the agencies are using to meet these needs. The United Nations is conscious of the role of leadership that it must assume in drawing the attention of Member Governments to urgent statistical problems and of the initiative it must take in seeking solutions for them. In addition, the United Nations will welcome requests of Member Governments to be of every possible assistance on all matters dealing with statistics - on matters ranging from those on the content of national statistical programmes to those on effective statistical methods and procedures. In discharging these functions the United Nations must draw very heavily upon the experience of the national statistical offices.

MORE.

I am convinced that the United Nations, with the generous participation of member governments and Specialized Agencies, can make a significant and unique contribution to the statistical knowledge of the world. The importance of this contribution is not lessened in any way by its technical nature and the fact that it lacks the drama which makes newspaper headlines. The progress that I confidently count on will be solid and permanent. It will advance the objectives of the United Nations and the interests of people everywhere.

I am sure that the objectives of this Congress will be achieved. I thank you all for coming and I wish you all success in your work, now and in the future.

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(CAUTION -- HOLD FOR RELEASE, 2.30 P.M. (EDT), 8 SEPTEMBER, 1947.)



SECRETARY-GENERAL

[Handwritten signature]
8 March 1948.

United Nations

With the compliments of the

Secretary-General

of the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS

Department of Public Information
Press and Publications Bureau
Lake Success, New York

CAUTION--ADVANCE RELEASE

Press Release M/398
4 March 1948

This text is confidential
and must not be published
or quoted from by press or
radio before 5.00 P.M. (EST)
Saturday 6 March 1948.

ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BEFORE
THE HERALD TRIBUNE FORUM
6 MARCH 1948
IN THE WALDORF-ASTORIA,
NEW YORK

I am very glad to have the chance to be with you here today and to say a few things to you about the United Nations.

I understand that you have been discussing "The World We Want" and I take it for granted that The World you Want is nothing, more or less, than the kind of a World which the United Nations itself has undertaken to create.

With the help of your generation, and the generations to follow, in all countries, it is the kind of a World which we will have.

We shall not create this world in one year or in ten years or perhaps in our lifetimes. The goal is too high. But we can lay the foundations for such a world and it is the duty of every one of us to make his contribution.

To different ones of you, different things about this World We Want are of special importance. But we can all agree upon its most important features. It is described clearly and simply in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations.

It will be a peaceful World, free from War and the threat of War. In this World people will enjoy the fundamental human rights and the fundamental freedoms. In this world nations and peoples will work together to promote social progress and better standards of life.

It will be a decent world, in which both individuals and nations will be allowed to live their lives in peace.

Of all these things the first and most fundamental one is Peace. For without Peace we cannot have the other things. We cannot concentrate our thoughts, our energies and our resources upon building a better world.

We must not only have Peace but we must feel assured that peace will be
/permanent.

MORE

permanent.. This means that we must have a state of normal, friendly relations between the many nations of the earth.

Here, then, you have the objective to which the nations pledged themselves at San Francisco.

In the United Nations we already have the instrument by which we can reach this objective, if that instrument is properly used by the nations.

First, it provides a means by which the Nations can settle their differences in a reasonable and a peaceful manner. In the Security Council it has machinery for preventing and suppressing actual hostilities between nations.

Secondly, the United Nations provides means by which the Nations can work together for economic and social progress. The Economic and Social Council with all its commissions, and the Specialized Agencies provide the machinery by which the nations can really build this New World.

So we know what we want and we have the machinery with which to make what we want.

Now what are we actually doing with this machinery? How far are we going toward creating the World We Want?

These are questions of the greatest concern to you and to all of your generation, everywhere. I hope that you will ask yourselves these same questions constantly during the years to come and insist upon getting good clear answers.

What, I repeat, are we doing to create this new world which we all want, which people all over the world want?

The answer, at this present time, is not the answer that I would like to be able to give you.

There are certain things on the credit side. The United Nations serves as a forum in which the Nations can air their differences. It is a place to which any nation, large or small, is able to bring its complaints against other nations and to demand satisfaction.

Everybody must recognize that the United Nations has served an important purpose in opening up and exploring situations which otherwise might have grown dangerous in secret.

Such problems as Indonesia, Palestine, Korea, Greece, Trieste and Kashmir /have demanded

have demanded and received attention.

In the Economic and Social fields we have made certain progress. The Specialized Agencies have done much solid work, and the Economic and Social Council, with its Commissions, has prepared the way for a long-range program in many different fields.

I cannot give you a detailed list of accomplishments at this time but I should sum up by saying that much very valuable organizational work has been done.

The Trusteeship Council has started its fine work on behalf of peoples which do not govern themselves.

But I must point to the other side of the picture and give you a warning.

The United Nations today is not what it was intended to be. Its Members are not doing all they could be doing to make it work.

We have failed to take definite action on problems of great and urgent importance -- the control of Atomic Energy, the provision of armed forces to serve the United Nations, the reduction and control of conventional armaments.

The Security Council has often failed to reach clear and effective decisions because there has not been full agreement among the nations which have permanent seats on the Council -- the Big Five.

The General Assembly has not been as effective as it should have been because the governments have been unwilling or unable to agree upon practical measures for putting the recommendations of the General Assembly into force.

Many recommendations of the General Assembly have never taken effect.

It is clear that the prestige, the authority and the effectiveness of the United Nations as a whole demand that these recommendations of the General Assembly command respect.

* * * *

I do not need to tell you a large part of the world today lives in fear of aggression and war.

The very Powers which were responsible for founding the United Nations are bitterly divided among themselves.

/The

MORE

The constructive program of social and economic improvement, which the nations have agreed to carry out through the United Nations, has been shoved to one side by political differences.

All I want to say about these differences here is this.

The United Nations was founded on the principle of world cooperation. It was assumed at San Francisco that the nations were prepared to live together and work together as good neighbors. They solemnly agreed that this was their purpose.

We can only achieve full success in creating a decent world, for all of mankind, if the nations work together in that direction.

To you young people -- and to all those who care to listen -- I want to repeat:

"We can build The World We Want only if the nations as a whole live together peacefully and work together loyally to realize the principles of the San Francisco Charter."

There is no other way.

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(HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL 5.00 P.M. (EST) SATURDAY 6 MARCH 1948)



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