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Republic within the sphere of the activities of the United Nations.

In some respects, Liberia's activities in this war against the Axis powers might be considered negligible, but we take some pride in the fact that we have been the largest contributor of cultivated rubber to the Allied cause. This, we believe, has enabled tanks and jeeps and motor vehicles to roll on faster and surer to the very gates of Berlin.

With reference specifically to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals and the labor these impose upon delegates at the Conference, I should like to say that the initiative on the part of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China in drafting a plan on world security and peace, prior to the conclusion of the war, is now unqualifiedly praiseworthy, and clearly indicates that the great powers who have had the means to wage wars and have not, when it seemed expedient, refrained from precipitating them, are not only determined and willing to solemnly bind themselves into a pact to keep themselves at peace, but to associate with themselves the rest of the peace-loving world in creating a structure for the common weal of mankind.

It is our sincere hope that the nations represented at this Conference will complete the structure in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding.

The Delegation which I have the honor to head would have me inform this assembly that, with the exception of a few amendments which are to be the subject of examination, the Government of Liberia is pleased to give support to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals.

With a view to giving the Security Council full powers to maintain international peace and security, the Liberian Delegation stands ready to support the recommendation contained in Article VI to the effect that representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Republic of China, and in due course, France, should have permanent seats. The suggestion that the General Assembly should elect six states to fill the non-permanent seats should be amended to seven seats, and that the General Assembly should elect, from the panel of member states not entitled to permanent seats, alphabetically seven states, which would serve a term of two years, and this procedure should be followed until the panel of states is exhausted. This course would enable all member states of the United Nations to be represented on the Council at some given time. If this suggestion is adhered to, it is quite possible that some of the pitfalls which occurred in the former League of Nations might be obviated. Acceptance of the foregoing proposal would be a further test as to whether a truly democratic principle can be maintained between an association of democratic nations.

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It is also the view of the Liberian Delegation that whatever study eventually may be given to the economic, social, and other humanitarian problems, relating to members of the United Nations, envisaged in Paragraph 3, Chapter 1, of the Proposals, the principle should emerge and be made crystal clear that this should not imply that a nation or the General Assembly may either interfere or intervene in the internal affairs of another state upon the assumption or decision that certain social or economic needs or reforms are desirable for that state. The state itself must reserve the right to determine the necessity for any such action; otherwise it would be relegated to the status of a dependency.

In conclusion, I should like to say that the people of all lands are with anxious solicitude hoping that as leaders and trustees of our respective governments our action in drafting a Charter for World Organization will not be dictated by mere individualistic or nationalistic whims, but by the realities of the situation confronting the world.

We must, therefore, seek to formulate and build a system of international peace and security sufficiently strong to be relied upon not only for the crisis of threatened war, but for all times. It must not be based upon nationalistic selfishness, or imperialistic concepts, but upon the principle of justice and law for all nations, whether great or small.

I must, however, point out that experience has demonstrated that lasting peace and security can be looked forward to only if the great powers are themselves united and remain united in peace as they were in war. The moral values must be given precedence in the future and the will to preserve the peace must be likewise dominant in the life of nations. These qualities pervade the thinking of small nations to a greater extent, perhaps, than that of great powers, for not possessing the means to wage war, the dreams and hopes of small nations are only of world peace and the security of their rights and independence. This Conference may utilize this spirit in completing the structure for the prevention of war and the maintenance of peace by integrating to a larger extent the voices, and I might add the wisdom, of all small nations. Nearly two thousand years ago, the world's wisest statesman and humanitarian remarked for the benefit and guidance of the philosophers that "A little child shall lead them."

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