

There is little doubt therefore that the United Nations will serve our purpose if we really want it to. That is of course the main point. The United Nations is our instrument, not our master; the means, not an end. Too often, its critics tend to assume that it can do things apart from its members, that by establishing the United Nations we have somehow rid ourselves of all responsibility to use it. Thus, it is often we hear the complaint that the United Nations did not prevent the war in Korea, that it failed there and (by implication) will fail everywhere. The United Nations in Korea did what it was set up to do: it mobilized the forces and implemented the will of the majority of its members and thus enabled them to put a stop to a local conflict and prevent it from developing into a general war. It is true that this was done at a cost - a particularly heavy cost to the United States in men and material - but that does not alter the fact that it was done; that it was a demonstration, however imperfect and costly, of something that the United Nations was set up to do, and that the United Nations did because the majority of members, including the United States, wanted it done.

We should regard the United Nations as something that works, not in spite of us, but because of us, that we accept the basic give and take principle of negotiation and determine to make the best and most constructive use we can of this instrument which we have created and which is at our disposal.

Over the nine short years in which the United Nations has existed, it has been threatened from within, and attacked from without. But with all its short-comings it is impossible for any of us to envisage a world without the network of practice and precedence, the institutions and procedures for peace making and peace enforcement which we mean by the phrase "the United Nations". If the United Nations did not exist, the prospect for humanity would be grim indeed.

The fate of all of us in the long term depends on the success of the United Nations. There are moments of irritation over its ineffectiveness in given situations but responsible men and women will give it their support unchangingly during the periods of weakness as well as when it is strong, because if we support it consistently it will become a mighty force contributing towards the maintenance in our world of peace, security and freedom.

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