

recognize that the remaining members each have a role to play which, although differing in degree and sometimes in character, is of great importance. The caste system which characterized the world community of the nineteenth century is vanishing. In its place we are creating a new collaboration among the nations of the world. And I hope that, as events in Asia unfold, it may prove possible, in the interests of this organization and of mankind, to make progress towards what the Secretary-General, in his annual report, has described as "the imperative need for the United Nations to achieve universality of membership as soon as possible".

Finally, we have arrived at a crossroads in the history of mankind's efforts, through the League of Nations and the United Nations, to develop international institutions capable of providing peace. We have come a long way since those unhappy days earlier in the century when faith in collective security appeared to have collapsed with the outbreak of a Second World War. We have been impeded, however, by major clashes of national interest, by the competition of political systems and by our own failures to realize how much had to be done.

We have abandoned, seemingly, the disposition to vituperative debate for more objective discussion. There is no doubt that we have made progress both in our manner and in our posture.

Now we have the opportunity to resume our advance towards the goals set forth in the Charter of the United Nations by a resolute attack upon the chief problems before us. We have it in our power, in this Assembly, to arrest the dangerous course of events and to move on to that peace to which our generation solemnly committed itself after the bitterest episode in human history.

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