

also by the capacity of the less developed countries to absorb and make the most efficient use of the assistance requested and received. Appropriations, whether granted through the United Nations or through other agencies - public and private - are important. What is also important, however, is a realistic assessment of not only what is right, but what is feasible and what should be done first.

That is why, in the various United Nations bodies recently, this word "priorities" has been increasingly heard. It is a symptom of growing awareness that while the things that need doing in the world, and that could be done through the United Nations, are unlimited, the capacity for doing them quickly, is limited.

The progress that has been made and, as we all hope, will continue to be made in this fundamental field of human welfare, is not, however, the only yardstick by which the record of the United Nations is judged. What people also want to know is what the United Nations has done and can do to provide a greater measure of security against aggression. For if war comes, the only kind of technical assistance which will be required will be machinery for removing the rubble and the ruin.

In working towards collective security, the United Nations has had to face the cold and bitter facts of the world in which we live. The United Nations did not create the lack of unanimity among the Great Powers. Nor did it create the acute division which has emerged since the war. These problems would have existed - I think in an even more explosive form - even if no world organization had ever been established. But the United Nations is the mirror that reflects them, and is sometimes mistakenly blamed because the picture is such a frightening one. But even without this United Nations mirror, the necessity for measures of self-defence in the present state of a divided world would still, unfortunately, have to be accepted as necessary.

The stake in collective security is not restricted to a limited group of states. It is shared by all. In addition to the threat and fear of conflict on a global scale, for many peoples of the world the most direct threat, real or imaginary, comes from their next-door neighbours or from the continuation of long-unresolved situations in their particular parts of the world. To such peoples, the existence of the United Nations is not merely a reassuring fact - it provides the actual means of seeking redress for grievances without resort to armed force. It also gives them some assurance that, if they are attacked, they will receive in some form or other, collective assistance.

The principle of collective security is fundamental to the Charter. It is based on the conviction that aggression in any part of the world constitutes, in the long run, a threat to every other part. If it is true that we cannot tolerate a city of residential suburbs surrounding slums and degradation, it is equally true that we cannot be safe in a world community which condones lawless aggression in any part of it.