

Yet with all these difficulties, difficulties outside the United Nations and difficulties inside the United Nations, I suggest that this is no time to weaken in our support for, let alone abandon support for, this indispensable piece of international machinery merely because it has falsified some of the illusions that we may have had when the Charter was drafted. After all, we do not throw away a car because the wrong kind of gas stalls it.

Having painted a rather gloomy picture of some aspects of the work of the Assembly, I think it is only fair I should add that real achievements are being made in the Seventh Assembly, and that in one sense it is a tribute to the United Nations itself and to the importance of the Assembly that these controversial political issues are being discussed there and that the big powers take this agency so seriously as to discuss them in the terms that they do. It would indeed be the end of all hope for the United Nations if it became a body merely for the exchange of meaningless courtesies. Furthermore, headline controversies should not lead to ignoring the solid achievements made by the United Nations in the social, humanitarian and economic fields. Progress is being made along those lines in this seventh session but the progress is not such as to command very much attention.

I should like to say a few words now on another but not unrelated subject, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Ministerial Council of which meets in Paris a week from today. In NATO we have continued to make progress since the last report I made to the house on this matter. The accession to membership of Greece and Turkey, with their considerable national forces, has added to the strength of the Organization, particularly on the southeastern flank. A NATO command on the Atlantic has been established, with headquarters at Norfolk, Virginia. General Ridgway's forces in Europe have been increasing in numbers and improving in effectiveness from the point of view of defence installations, particularly airfields, and through training exercises. I had the privilege of attending one of the latter last September, and it showed how much experience in co-operation between national forces has been gained in the relatively short time that these operations have been conducted.

There have been comments in the press from time to time that the NATO program for 1952, agreed upon at Lisbon last February and so strongly criticized in certain quarters, will not be 100 per cent completed by the end of this year. This will, I suppose, turn out to be the case, though we do not yet know exactly what the total NATO forces available by the end of this year will be. Yet on the information that has been made available to me I am quite confident now that the so-called "Lisbon goals" for 1952 - this will surprise many who thought these goals were unattainable and that the very effort to reach them would result in economic chaos - will be in very large measure achieved. I do not think I should say anything more on this subject until after the Council meeting.

In any event, I do not think we should lay too great emphasis on mathematical targets for any given date for forces under arms, provided we are making steady progress towards our goals and are not at any time