

# The Future Role of Law

The arms race, world economic development, the global environment, political terrorism, the population explosion, utilization of resources of the sea and the benefits of space exploration are all on the agenda of every nation, but are not capable of being solved by any one acting alone. The United Nations is, in fact, the only global instrument we have to protect the global community.

The U.N. is concerned with a multitude of global problems, including peace, disarmament, outer space, the seas and oceans, natural resources, human rights, multinational corporations and criminality. Its whole effort is directed at trying to consolidate peace, reduce tensions, and stimulate economic and social development.

The United Nations Charter sets out a noble course for humanity. The nations of the world have been brought together, at least for discussion purposes, under one roof. The problems of our time have been illuminated with a global spotlight. The strategies for security and development have been devised. We have the machinery for peace in our hands. It ought to be a moment of triumph. Instead, it is a decade of despair.

What is wrong? There is more fighting, more exploitation, more terrorism, more violence, more hunger and more suffering with each year that passes. Critics maintain that the United Nations has not fulfilled its promise. It is labelled as a sea of rhetoric, a paper factory, a bureaucracy of international proportions. The big powers frequently bypass the U.N. except when it suits their narrowly-defined purposes. The poorer states use it as a forum for criticizing the industrialized countries. At the very moment when the U.N.'s global strategies to protect human survival and economic development are so desperately needed, member-states are resorting increasingly to confrontation, violence and even war.