

The Charter acknowledges the part to be played by regional arrangements or agencies in the conduct of international relations. In the economic and social field there is a growing tendency to delegate responsibility and authority to the UN Regional Commissions. May not adopt a similar approach to some, though obviously not all, of the political questions which may face us in the United Nations?

The United Nations, however reorganized to become more efficient, can never function effectively unless it has adequate financial resources. Far from possessing these, it faces a financial crisis. Temporary expedients have been found to meet this crisis. But the basic problem, arising largely out of the refusal of some states to pay their share of peace-keeping expenses, remains untouched.

I am aware of the explanations of their negative attitude to this problem given by the members concerned. But most of the arguments advanced have little to do with the real issue which is that, if the United Nations decides in accordance with recognized procedures to engage in peace-keeping operations, the expenses should be borne collectively by the whole membership in accordance with Assembly decisions on apportionment.

If we do not give the Organization the financial support it needs for discharging its responsibilities, its very existence will be endangered. In particular, the efforts of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to render economic and social assistance might be brought to an end.

The first concern of the United Nations, I know, is the keeping of the peace. If we were to fail in that, the whole brave human experiment will have failed. But, second only to the keeping of peace, the great purpose of international statesmanship today must be to help to improve the living standards of all the world's peoples. The role of the United Nations in this field is necessarily limited. But if we wish, it can be one of great and lasting significance.