

about wild accusations which have no basis in fact.

There is altogether too much of this spreading of baseless defamation of the U.N. The charges we have quoted above in the italicized sentences are illustrations. Those who spread them are irresponsible for two reasons: (1) they evidently have not bothered to check on the truth, and (2) they do not pause to reflect on the consequences if the people's faith is so undermined that this international organization to maintain peace collapses. Playing fast and loose with the truth here is playing with the lives of our children and our children's children.

#### U.N.--Snare or Shield?

We have tried to give a picture of the United Nations--what it is and how it works. It has been an inadequate picture, for it is impossible to talk about all the things the U.N. does in so brief a compass. But we have tried to make this picture, though drawn in bold strokes, a balanced one, and in this way a true one. The bad has been shown along with the good; the U.N.'s failures as well as its successes.

Now it is time to answer the question asked at the start: The U.N.--is it a snare or a shield? As an American citizen, free to do your own thinking and reach your own conclusions, you will answer this question for yourself. We hope you have found this study a help in making up your mind. As for ourselves, after watching the U.N. closely from the day of its birth we say without hesitation that we believe it is a shield.

We see in the U.N. a shield to the peace of the world. It shields peace because it offers the nations a peaceful alternative to demands and ultimatums and threats of war. It shields peace because it musters the constructive, cooperative help of the nations to solve those human problems of hunger and poverty and lack of opportunity which create the misery and mass discontent out of which wars come. It shields peace because it is opening a way to freedom and self-government for subjugated peoples who never before had any other way to liberty than armed revolt.

When it thus shields world peace, the U.N. shields the peace of America. When it shields the peace of America it shields American homes--your home, your children, your grandchildren.

We do not think that the U.N. provides a military shield for America. We know this is the only kind of shield some Americans care about, and that their interest in the U.N. is therefore confined to what the U.N. can do to guarantee collective military security. In this study we have admitted that we do not believe the U.N. can guarantee security of this kind: Some friends of the U.N. will disagree, or they will argue that if the U.N. does not provide military security today, some day it may. Our conclusion is otherwise, and we frankly acknowledge it. If the U.N.'s shield has to be a military shield, then we do not think it is any good.

But that, as we see it, is not the problem of peace in today's world. The problem of peace is the problem of learning to live together--all kinds of nations, with all kinds of governments and political beliefs, all kinds of peoples at all kinds of social and intellectual levels. Can