

This is, then, a time for faith in the United Nations and also a time for constructive criticism. This attitude need cause no dilemma if we can see the problem steadily and see it whole.

One thing we must do is to make sure that our criticism reaches the right target and that we do not denounce the United Nations as an institution for the sins of some of its members. It was not the United Nations General Assembly which displayed a double standard of morality in its attitude to the crises in Hungary and Egypt. The Assembly was no less forthright in its insistence that the Russians should withdraw from Hungary than it was in requesting the withdrawal of forces from Egypt. It was the Soviet Union, in its cynical disregard for the principles of the Charter as upheld by the Assembly, which was guilty of a double standard. Unless we understand these aspects of the problem clearly, we are apt to tear down this great international organization instead of building it up. We should apply the lessons we have learned in order to guide the United Nations to better practices and greater influence.

We must not close our eyes either to the signs of hope and encouragement which are every bit as evident as the causes for alarm. Whatever our failure to cope within the United Nations with some difficult problems, we did find methods of co-operating in the Middle East which have already reduced the dangers of conflict, and which can, with determination and goodwill, help us in the slow and difficult path to peaceful settlement. The problems of the Middle East are the complex product of centuries. Because they cannot be solved by the United Nations in a day we ought not to drift into the illusion that other and swifter arbitrations would prove more satisfactory. However bitter the passions which were roused over the crisis in the Middle East, countries with very different points of view are working together to find solutions. We have in the United Nations Emergency Force an instrument which cannot by itself solve the problems of that area, but it can be a most useful agency in the procedure of settlement. UNEF represents a considerable advance over previous United Nations bodies created to buttress the peace. It is my hope that from this experience will grow the nucleus of a permanent United Nations force, a force which would be not an international army and not an international police force, but an international agency ready and able to move swiftly into areas of crisis to help keep the peace and assist in the process of conciliation and settlement. It is in this manner, by using its great moral force in ways which are practicable in a world still divided and suspicious, that the United Nations can move from strength to greater strength.

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