

any easy way out of continuing to pay that price for a long time to come. When I speak of the high price of peace, I am not thinking of the burden of armaments. That is in the picture, of course. But I am thinking of the price in terms of the demands upon our capacity for patience and for steadiness of purpose. The process of learning to live together without war in this torn and distracted world of ours is going to continue to be painful and a constant challenge for the rest of our lives. Yet we know what the choice is. Either we manage it or we face disaster.

The mere fact that the Governments created the United Nations and have maintained it is, in itself, evidence that mankind is capable of responding to the challenge of interdependence with which the evolution of human society has now brought us face to face as never before. We also know that history has many lessons to teach about apparently irreconcilable conflicts. Terrible wars have been fought in the past because people thought that they could not live in the same world together, or because they thought their beliefs were in head-on collision with those of their neighbors. Then, with time, they found that it was not only possible but necessary to make a working compromise that allowed for the differences. They found that it was not only possible but necessary to accept the principle of diversity in human society. Time itself is a great healer and situations that seem to defy solution can be lived with until that day when the evolution of human affairs brings a more favorable opportunity.

Each year that the United Nations holds together as a world meeting place and as the expression of universal aspirations responding to a common need, improves the chances of peace and orderly progress for our civilization. Conflicts of ideology or interest between the Communist world and the Western world, between the Western world and the Asiatic world, between Arab and Jew, between Moslem and Hindu, are not the only law of life for our generation. There is also another law. When the vital interests and the basic ideals which join all humanity are fully recognized -- not only, as they already are, in declarations and speeches by spokesmen of the peoples all over the world, or in the written word of the Charter of the United Nations, but also in actions inspired by conviction -- then fruitful cooperation in peace is possible and reconciliation of conflicts by peaceful means is attainable. When this happens, we can turn into an asset those very differences which at present divide the world and represent a threat to peace. The United Nations is based on this insight.

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