

they had already advanced. Gradually they have so frightened the people of the free world, that they have forced the United Nations into becoming the very instrument of collective defence which they thought they could prevent by means of the veto. Their sudden return to the Council chambers of the United Nations - a return which they have made in a bland and affable manner, in sharp contrast to their abrupt and hectoring demeanour of the past few years, is itself a tribute to the strength and influence of the United Nations.

Whether with this renewed strength, the United Nations can now serve as an instrument for resolving some of the outstanding issues between the Soviet Union and the non-Communist world, is the next great question which faces the organization. If there is any chance that it can perform this function, it will be only because it is strong in the support of its member states. For this reason it is encouraging to know that here, and in thousands of other cities of the Free World today, men and women are making known their interest in the United Nations, and in the policies which their governments adopt toward the United Nations.

I have been speaking of the United Nations as a practical instrument by which states like our own might try to put into effect in international affairs some of the policies which they hold to be to their advantage. I think this is a good way to look at the United Nations, because it prevents us being sentimental or unrealistic about it. We ask ourselves what are the things we want done in the world, and then we consider whether any of these things can be realised through this particular international instrument. I know very well, however, that the United Nations embodies a great and imaginative conception - the ideal of a world community. I know also that like all great movements in history, this one will prosper only as it is supported by the compelling force of public opinion. People must believe in it and they must believe in it sufficiently to hold to it through good times and bad. A wide and persistent popular demand during the war that a new effort to be made in the post-war period to establish an international organization played a very great part in the founding of the United Nations. For the difficult tasks that lie ahead, it is of the greatest importance that the United Nations should be sustained by an informed public interest and a conviction in the public mind that the purposes of the United Nations are valid, that the ideal is sound and worthy.

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