

to speak the same language. Conversely, we must guard against the increasingly serious risks of a failure of communication. Third, we are bound to acknowledge the growing interdependence between the concerns and interests of one segment of the world community and those of another. If we look at any of the major issues preoccupying us today, we shall find that they cannot readily be treated in isolation or reduced to purely national dimensions. It has become almost a commonplace to say that peace and security are indivisible. The same is certainly also true of prosperity. Finally, I would say that the concept of a world community must be reflected, in one way or another, in effective world arrangements which will allow common problems to be considered and common solutions to be devised.

There is no better analysis of the need for effective world arrangements than the following passage, which is taken from Pacem in Terris, that great Encyclical letter of the late Pope John XXIII:

"Today, the universal common good poses problems of worldwide dimensions which cannot be adequately tackled or solved except by the efforts of public authorities endowed with a breadth of powers, structure and means of the same proportions: that is, of public authorities which are in a position to operate in an effective manner on a worldwide basis. The moral order itself, therefore, demands that such a form of public authority be established."

If we consider the world as it has evolved over the past two decades, we cannot but be struck by the extent of the road we have travelled towards organizing our activities on a worldwide basis. Indeed, there is scarcely a human concern that is not subsumed by the operation of one international organization or another. Nor are the results of this worldwide organization of our activities to be discounted. They have led to concerted attacks on famine, disease and illiteracy. They have led to a freeing of the flows of trade and capital. They have helped to mobilize the resources of the affluent world for the benefit of the less-developed countries. They have helped to disseminate the achievements of science and technology. They have been instrumental in evolving a forward-looking charter of human rights. And they have brought the disputes of nations within the compass of international scrutiny.

The World Re-shaped by the UN

This is not a mean catalogue of achievements. But it does not afford us any grounds for complacency. Much still remains to be done if we are to attain our objective of a sensibly-ordered world community. The main instrument that will help us achieve that objective is, I am sure, the United Nations system. In saying this I have no intention of discounting the many problems and crises which that system has been compelled to face over the past two decades and will, no doubt, continue to face in days to come. But I do feel that the United Nations has already evolved into something that vastly exceeds in magnitude the sum total of its member states. It has not become, as many feared it might, a mere debating society. Nor are its functions limited to those of a court of world opinion. The United Nations is actively engaged in the shaping of our world. It has involved many of us in the consideration of problems which, but