

I would also point out that there was an occasion when the United Nations did endeavour to be of some assistance in connection with Berlin, but it was not very successful. That had to do with the Committee of the United Nations which was set up some 10 years ago.

On September 1, I stated: "The Charter of the United Nations declares the primary purpose of the United Nations to be the maintenance of international peace and security. It must be ready to make use of the United Nations". ...There are a number of complicating factors, not the least of which is the question of the timing of any United Nations involvement.

The UN in Berlin

The United Nations could, to begin with, exercise the function of promoter of an agreement on the Berlin problem by providing a focus for world opinion, which could have the effect of impelling the powers directly concerned to settle their differences by negotiation. Second, the United Nations could, if the powers concerned could be persuaded to agree, act in various roles as observer to verify that any new agreement reached was being fully implemented in accordance with its provision. Third, the United Nations could be assigned the more difficult task of operating an international regime in Berlin.

The problem is one of selecting the role which is most likely to contribute to the settlement of the Berlin problem in particular circumstances. This means essentially that the role of the United Nations must be related to developments in negotiations toward a settlement. The four powers have primary responsibility in Berlin, and must first enter into direct negotiations. There are some indications at the moment that there is a reasonable prospect of there being negotiations. When I speak of a reasonable prospect, I am not speaking in anticipation of possible success, in view of Mr. Khrushchov's intrinsic position. If direct negotiations succeed might there be a possibility of providing a role for the United Nations, perhaps as guarantor of the agreement reached?

It is important to remember that the effective introduction of the United Nations into Berlin could only be done by agreement of all the four powers. I need not say that this may not be easily achieved. Whatever the difficulty might be, I think the little powers and other nations to be affected by the outcome of the Berlin problem have a right to an opportunity to be heard and to place their views clearly before a forum of most of the nations on earth. Furthermore, I can think of the possibility of the United Nations role being that of an observer in the city, or a supervisor on the access routes. Consideration of this possibility might facilitate negotiations and, if the idea were implemented, it might provide a stabilizing element in what is bound to remain a sensitive area throughout the years...

Belgrade Declarations

Over and over again we listen to Khrushchov babbling about imperialism and colonialism, picturing himself, the leader of Communism, as the exponent of freedom for peoples who are under domination. The Belgrade Conference made a number of recommendations and suggestions, among which are the following: