

communist friends in North Korea.) War would have been declared between the United States and Red China.

Then the fat would have been in the fire! Soviet Russia has a treaty which binds it to come to the aid of its Communist China ally if that country is attacked. Moscow might have tried to put off honoring that treaty promise, but the moment the U.S.A. forces penetrated Chinese soil, or American bombs began to hit Chinese targets, Soviet Russia would have been forced to come in. Why? Because not to have done so would have been notice to all the other communist allies that Russian promises were worthless; the communist world bloc would have collapsed.

Russia would have come in. Then it would have been war between the United States alone and Soviet Russia with Communist China at its side. That is the very war which the United States most wants to prevent - the war the American people most dread. What the losses of such a war would be, one's mind almost refuses to contemplate.

None of us can be very content with what actually has happened in Korea. But to that possible war between the United States alone and the Russian-Chinese alliance, the U.N. did offer an alternative. The outcome of taking that alternative is still in doubt. But as this is written, the Communist attempt to seize all Korea has been stopped in its tracks. The Communist armies are back north of the line from which they jumped off when they launched their aggression. A cease-fire has gone into effect. A truce line has been drawn. Thousands upon thousands of North Korean and Chinese troops have told the world that they want nothing more to do with communism.

Isn't that alternative, with all its shortcomings, better for the United States and for our American homes than it would be for our country now to be locked in a lone death struggle with Russia and its Asian ally?

The United Nations is young - only eight years old. It is not as strong as it would be if it were not plagued by the inner rift between its Communist and non-Communist members. There are many things we wish it could do that it is not able to do - at least not yet. But with all its weaknesses it has already, in such cases as have been cited, where a crisis arose that threatened terrible bloodshed, offered an alternative which either headed off or stopped the fighting, or - in the single instance where its efforts at peaceful settlement were thwarted by outright aggression - it has saved this nation from having to deal with that aggression singlehanded and against a gigantic Communist alliance.

No wonder President Eisenhower, the man who best knows the dangers his country faces, talks of what our peril would be today if during these recent years there had been no U.N.

#### How the U.N. Operates

Because there is still so much confusion about the way in which the United Nations carries on its functions, a quick glance at its organization may be helpful in assaying its merits. There are Americans who speak of the U.N. as though it were a supergovernment of some kind. It is not.