

a presumption to be a guarantee of peace, and would instead contribute to disorder.

It is clear that the defect lies in the voting procedure in the Security Council and not in the relations of the world organization and the regional one. But Colombia is prepared to concede that this voting procedure may be necessary to maintain the unstable equilibrium of another part of the world, destroyed by the barbarity of Nazism, which will enter once more, from now on, into a new experiment to try to find a solution for its age-old conflicts. In this part of the world, miraculously spared from catastrophe and miraculously stable, which has settled its territorial problems, which relies on perfected and respected public treaties, which consequently is in a position to ascertain who is the aggressor and when there is aggression, such a procedure might unleash war instead of assuring peace. In accord with its undertakings at Chapultepec, Colombia believes that if the system of voting in the Security Council be approved as recommended, because it is deemed necessary for the security of the world, autonomy of regional arrangements like the Inter-American one should be amplified so that its decisions could not be vetoed by a single nation in the Security Council.

I am well aware that the old nations whose beginnings and history are interwoven with the history and the beginnings of mankind may listen with certain explicable doubts to us of the American states when we proclaim our confidence in the juridical and political methods which we have adopted in the international field. Nevertheless, these doubts are not justified. In reality, we are only a young branch of the civilization of Christianity and of the West. There is nothing in our culture nor in the forms of our political and social life in which a man of the old world cannot recognize the basic roots, which are the nature or the will of his own forebears. However, through an understandable phenomenon, the great antitheses which were created in the political thought of the West were resolved without great struggles in American syntheses and in an atmosphere more favorable to the unlimited growth of man. The first clashes in modern times between democracy and autocracy took place in England; while the struggle continued fiercely and cruelly on the other side of the Atlantic, here, in the broad reaches of the British colonies the conflict was settled with marvelous ease. None of the concepts of international law which govern the relations of the peoples of this hemisphere can be termed a typically American creation.

But how much effort, how many wars, how much pain, how much misery has it cost European civilization for centuries to implant a principle which, among us, is accepted at a Pan American meeting as a natural accord of wills without opposition from any important national interest? We are not, because of this, better or worse but only more fortunate. And we do not feel, nor shall we feel, it to be unjust or arbitrary that every time that the old hemisphere is shaken by a new conflict, caused by complications dating back through the centuries, the American continent should interest itself in its settlement, including the shedding of its blood. If classical civilization were to undergo a disaster, ours, which is identical, would be tied to its destiny. The short experience of America is that the past and present of Europe are the immediate future of America and not the reverse. Thus, we have the privilege of foretelling our destiny by reading the pages of the history of our civilization as it was unfolded on the other side of the ocean. We are not and should not be regionalists and we could not be, even if we wished. We speak today of the continent as of a unit, it is true, but this is for one reason: because we will not be able to say that the world is a unit until the task which we are beginning now, in San Francisco, becomes perfected and a long peace permits us to have a little more confidence in our capacity to make it a permanent one--without need for recourse to force.

But, Fellow Delegates, any explanation as to the feelings of America regarding the problems of the world is unnecessary. One by one, the representatives of all the nations meeting here have rendered tribute to the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Each one has found a special reason for affection, for admiration, for gratitude, interpreting the sorrow of his nation because Roosevelt was a friend of all the nations and the good neighbor of humanity. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was an American, the greatest of our times, the most American of all. We owe the development of our regional system to his generous, straightforward and fortunate policy as a true American but the old world owes him more, the victory of the United Nations, the liberation of many oppressed peoples and the peace which we must guard zealously at this Conference.

MR. EDEN: Fellow Delegates, while the hour is late, I think that you all feel we should hear one more orator tonight. The list is still a long one and we must get on. I propose therefore to call one more speaker tonight.