

UNITED NATIONS

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(The following is a special section entitled "U.N.--
Snare or Shield?" which appeared in the December 16,
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Concerning the United Nations, Mr. Average American is a puzzled man. His wife is just as puzzled. They hear so many conflicting opinions that they don't know what they think about it. Is this international organization of 60 nations a bulwark of peace? Does it help shield their beloved nation, the United States of America, from harm? Or is it useless? Even worse, is it a trap in which American strength is being drained off, American money wasted, the lives of American boys thrown away? The U.N. - is it any good, or isn't it?

Mr. and Mrs. Average American wish they could be sure. They hear and read a lot about the U.N. Hardly a day passes when the name doesn't come up in some form or other. Korea - that's the U.N. Vyshinsky - the U.N. again. Palestine, Morocco, Kashmir, refugees, human rights, child feeding - all the U.N. Yet Americans disagree violently as to its value.

President Eisenhower, for example, tells a group at the White House that "the U.N. is far more than merely a desirable organization in these days." He calls it "man's best organized hope to substitute the conference table for the battlefield". "Who knows," he asks, "what could have happened in these past years of strain and struggle if we hadn't had the United Nations?" And he could hardly put his endorsement in stronger words than when he says, "I think the U.N. has become a sheer necessity."

President Truman talked the same way when he was in office. In one of his closing messages to Congress he said, "Peace cannot be maintained for long unless there is an international organization" such as the U.N. In Mr. Truman's eyes it is "the first and greatest weapon against aggression and international immorality . . . a precious instrument . . . a great asset that we should constantly seek to reinforce, that we should never ignore or cast away." This was the Truman conclusion: "We can win the peace only by continuing to work for international justice and morality through the United Nations."

That's the way two Presidents, one a Republican and the other a Democrat, size up the U.N. But distinguished Americans disagree. "It should be painfully apparent," says J. Bracken Lee, Governor of Utah, "that as presently constituted the U.N. is a snare and a delusion." Representative Burdick of North Dakota told Congress that it must "watch well the United Nations for, as now constituted, it is Enemy Number 1 of free America." The St. Louis national convention of the American Legion cheered its former national commander, Donald Wilson, when in a speech he said: "The United Nations is dead. It was a fraud in its inception, a hypocrite in its operation; but for the fact that it first reddened Korean mountains with sacred American blood, it would have been a farce in its demise."¹

¹ Footnotes appear on page 44.