

In international relations, as, indeed, in all human relations, attitude and will are of first importance. A solution of most problems is not difficult to find where men or nations are really anxious to discover common ground, and bring their wills to that task. Where, however, there is no will to peace, and an attitude of antagonism rather than of co-operation is deliberately fostered, the appeal soon becomes one to force, rather than to reason. Wherever the appeal is to force, security, which is essential to the preservation of freedom, demands a preponderance of strength on the side of freedom. This is necessary, not from any thought of aggression, but to save from destruction, the very nations and peoples who have at heart the aim of creating better conditions for others as well as for themselves.

The problems of today are not going to be solved by any formula. They will be solved only to the degree that each individual does his part, and each nation does its part to further the common good, by an attitude of good-will towards all. In this particular, example is all powerful. Patience and forbearance are not signs of weakness. They are the hall-marks of strength.

If this world of ours is to escape destruction, international relationships, characterized by antagonism and coercion must make way for a world community which recognizes that "over all nations is humanity". The habit of mind which resolves problems in terms of class, or race or of national prestige must be abandoned, and its place taken by a world outlook.

Let us not be deceived. The terrible truth is that the nations have yet to decide which is to prevail: the law of blood and of death, ever imagining new means of destruction, and forcing nations to be constantly ready for the battlefield; or the law of peace, work and health, ever evolving new means of delivering man from the scourges which beset him. Mankind has still to discover whether violent conquest or the relief of humanity is to triumph in the end.

Whatever may be said by or of individuals, the peoples of the world - in every community - ardently desire world peace. Today they are looking anxiously to all the representatives of all the nations at this Assembly, to work together towards the fulfilment of this great purpose. The proceedings of this Assembly may help to determine whether the world is to be plunged into the darkness of anarchy, or whether mankind is to continue to move towards the light of ordered freedom and universal peace.