

I do not feel that it should be a reproach to the United Nations that its reach exceeds its grasp. None of us can have doubted that the effort to form a world community under the rule of law would be long and difficult and strewn with disappointments. If that were not the case, there would be neither need for faith nor any credit in cherishing it in bad times as well as in good. This is no time to give up on the United Nations. Indeed we would be betraying the United Nations forces fighting in Korea if we denied the loyalty and faith which we owe to the principles of our charter and our world organization.

There is another debt--and this is the third of the general considerations which I think we should bear in mind. We owe it to those men in Korea and to ourselves to make as cool and rational an appraisal as we can of the dangers which threaten the free world, not only in Korea but at many other points as well, and, in the light of that appraisal, to decide what is the proper policy for the United Nations to pursue in the Far East. For many weeks now the headlines have kept us vividly aware of the fighting in Korea. Unless, however, we are careful to cultivate and maintain a balanced judgment, we may forget that there are forces poised at many other points which could quickly strike against the free world. Only if we remember these other dangers can our policy toward China and Korea be soundly based. There is a depressingly large number of such danger spots, and I should like to mention only a few of them.

Moving westward from Korea we must, I think, take into account the danger that overshadows Indo-China. The Chinese guerrillas and volunteers--"volunteers", an ominous word--have long been assisting the Viet Minh in their attacks on the three new associated states of Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia. Such indications as we had before June 25 of the possibility of an attack on the Republic of Korea are now appearing in the case of Indo-China; and a full-scale attack on that country must be regarded as a real possibility. If the valiant efforts now being made by France to defend and complete the independence of Indo-China were to fail, the whole of South-East Asia, including Burma, Malaya and Indonesia, with their important resources of rubber, rice and tin might well come under communist control, and the position of India and Pakistan in that event would in the long run, or in the not so long run, be precarious indeed.

Persia and the Middle East are also vulnerable. At the present time the armed forces of the Soviet Union face this area and those vital oil fields, in strength sufficient, I think, to overrun it without too much difficulty.

Across the Mediterranean another country immediately threatened is Yugoslavia. Marshal Tito's government is facing great economic difficulties, partly as a result of the serious drought there last year, and partly as the result of the economic blockade imposed on that country by the Cominform. Moreover, Roumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Albania are now, contrary to the provisions of the peace treaties, in possession of sufficient military forces to make them collectively powerful, as well as threatening and aggressive, neighbours.