

It recorded a very important decision about Palestine. Without attempting to make a judgment about the wisdom of any of their decisions, we can say at least that the Assembly was trying to act as an international legislature, in spite of the difficulties which handicap it. Not all the problems of the world fall within the area of the conflict between the Great Powers. Outside the range of that conflict there are other dangerous situations and there is no reason why the United Nations, in its present form, should not deal with them. At the present moment there are three such problems on the agenda of the Security Council. It is no exaggeration to say that the lives of many millions of people depend upon the ability of the United Nations to find a solution to these questions. There is no one else to deal with them. If the United Nations fails there will be no solution except by violence and bloodshed. The questions to which I refer are the dispute over Kashmir between India and Pakistan, the Indonesian question and the Palestine question. I am not going to go into any detailed discussion of these problems. I say quite seriously, however, that within the next few weeks constructive solutions must be found in both India and Palestine or we shall encounter violence of an unprecedented kind. There are, roughly, thirty-five million Moslem people in India and fifteen million Hindu people in Pakistan whose lives quite seriously depend upon the ability of the little group of men who are sitting together in a room at Lake Success to assist the Governments of India and Pakistan to settle their differences over Kashmir. In Palestine there are seven hundred thousand Jews and about twice as many Arabs who are at the moment arming themselves for a tragic conflict, which can be avoided only if the United Nations can intervene with resolution and wisdom. In regard to the third problem, Indonesia, there is now good reason to hope that the Security Council has brought about an important settlement. This settlement, if it is indeed brought about as present indications promise, suggests a wider area within which the United Nations may operate. The receding imperialism of the 19th century is leaving in its wake a whole series of political problems. Adjustments of one kind or another are being made throughout the colonial areas of the pre-war years. Sometimes the change is radical and complete, as in the case of the British withdrawal from India. Sometimes it is more gradual, as in the case of Indonesia. But nowhere is it a simple matter simply to withdraw and turn responsibility over to the new regime, as Kashmir, Indonesia and Palestine all reveal. The existence of this problem alone - the emergence of new political organisms within the old colonial empires - is itself a compelling reason for an international organization.

I am glad that I have been able to talk to this Association about the United Nations because of our common interest in the University with which we are associated. This experiment in international government will never succeed unless it is based on an informed and intelligent and active public opinion. The times through which we are passing call for statesmanship of a very high order which succeeds only if it is sustained and encouraged and indeed produced by the constant demand of a public which is aware of the issues which confront the nations. I do not think there can be any doubt that we are moving toward a world government in some form. In the United Nations we are trying to make it a government by consent, but if we do not get it that way we may very well get it in forms which are strange to us and which we shall find intolerable. In a recent statement,