

C234821

defense of their own destinies they have reaffirmed as one of the principles for which they fight the sovereignty of those heroic downtrodden nations.

We are frequently reminded to be realistic but what greater and more undeniable reality than the fact that small nations do exist free from the lust for power and conquest. They represent the highest aspirations toward justice. They are builders of the fortress of law. That is why we, the small nations, are here--not by reason of a military strength which we do not possess nor by virtue of a contribution that could be powerful in guaranteeing peace, but because of our honest yearning for cordial friendship and our sincere love for peace. We want security, not only for ourselves--for us who possess no elements to threaten it--but security for the great powers who can more readily be tempted by the sinister advice of ambition and force.

The international organism for security and peace must be built on democratic principles. Democracy safeguards the brotherhood of all men. Should the great powers wish to be alone in authority they would also remain alone in their struggle for supremacy. And, then, what they would establish would only be a return to permanent insecurity.

Social justice, oppression, poverty, wherever they exist, threaten the security of the world. The interdependence of all nations is now an inexorable law. Force must be an exclusive instrument of the community of nations. All these standards and ideals that have led the armed forces of the United Nations to victory have been consecrated in immortal documents and in the agreements of the three great leaders of this war--Churchill, Stalin, and that towering figure, the most inspired statesman of our times, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

We have come here to comply with a will left us by the fallen generation for the benefit of our future generations.

In essence it is a tribute to the war heroes and martyrs whose executors we are. This means that the peace we want is far more than a mere question of force. It is above all the organization of force, but on the basis of justice, justice for all men and for all peoples; justice for the strong and justice for those who need it most, for the masses, painfully climbing toward liberation and human dignity.

We are met to accomplish the most cherished of the principles for which they gave their lives to free the

357

-4-

C234822

world from brute force, that it may rest on law. Peace has different meanings for different nations. It does not mean the same thing to the oppressed as it does to the prosperous. But if we listen closely to the hearts of man we shall hear, in the midst of so many contradictions, so many lacerating inequalities, a voice understood by all peoples expressing sentiments of unity and brotherhood. That voice speaks our determination to defend the equal rights of all nations to fight for the rights and dignity of man, and to labor without rest, without dismay toward the abolition of poverty and the establishment of social justice and freedom.

Let us recognize, with humility in our hearts, that we in this Assembly are but an instrument of ever-growing forces striving for the redemption of mankind. Man himself, struggling, dreaming, suffering, and dying, plays the leading role in this great drama. In order to do our duty in this Conference we need only to heed his cries for justice, liberty, and peace, reaching us from all corners of the earth.

(Because of an unavoidable delay in the arrival of the Chairman of the Delegation of Nicaragua, the President next recognized the Chairman of the Delegation of Norway.)

MR. MOLOTOV (speaking in Russian; English version as delivered by interpreter follows): The Chair now recognizes the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Delegation of Norway, Mr. Lie.

MR. LIE: Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Many words have already been spoken from this rostrum to honor the memory of the late President Roosevelt. The people of Norway would fail to understand it if today I did not express also their feelings of sorrow and bereavement. President Roosevelt was a friend of Norway. He often showed his sympathy for Norway. Ever since my country was invaded he demonstrated his friendship and helpfulness, and in Norway his name meant endurance and encouragement. He will always have a high place in the hearts of the Norwegian people.

When after six long years of struggle against a cruel and terrible enemy, we stand today before final victory over Germany, our thoughts go to the millions of men and women in the whole of the free world who through their courage and sacrifices have made this victory possible.

357

-5-