

the Security Council as the body responsible for keeping the peace go much farther than is generally realized. Amongst other things, they commit the members of the United Nations - including this country, of course - to provide armed forces to be used at the direction of the Security Council, in accordance with agreements worked out by the Military Staff Committee and member states, for enforcement purposes. It was hoped that this machinery, by which force would be placed behind the rule of international law, would guarantee to the members of the United Nations, and particularly to its smaller members, the sense of security which they could not provide for themselves.

You are all familiar with the way in which the United Nations has failed during the period since the war to achieve this central purpose. The Great Powers were entrusted with special responsibility for working out the peace preservation machinery under the Security Council. When the Great Powers failed to agree on the methods by which this machinery should be set up, there was no further progress. The clear realization that the United Nations could not guarantee the security of its members and that, at the same time, there was developing within the Iron Curtain one of the most formidable military threats in history, forced members of the United Nations to look elsewhere for their security. The North Atlantic Alliance was created in response to their emergency and through it the Western world has gained some of the safety which we hoped would come from the Charter itself.

Up until a few months ago we had no reason to think that, in the present state of tension between the Communist and the free worlds, and with the Soviet Union exercising its veto in the Security Council, the United Nations would ever be the political fire department which it was originally hoped to create.

During the recent summer, however, there has been a surprising and spectacular development. When the Communist forces in North Korea broke over the 38th Parallel on the 25th of June, the Soviet Union was absenting itself from meetings of the Security Council. At the time the Soviet Union was pursuing a policy of trying to force its will with regard to the representation of China upon its colleagues in the United Nations and similar international organizations. It must now greatly regret this policy of abstention since it has completely and abjectly abandoned it. Consequently, when aggression took place in Korea, there was not only the will on the part of the free world to resist by collective action, but there was no one present who could throw the blanket of the veto over this bright flame of determination. What the international Communists of North Korea did not realize was that their act of aggression would raise basic questions of principle for the free nations - principle upon which they would insist on taking up a stand. Aggression in Korea was resisted by the United Nations. The burden of this decision has, of course, been borne by the United States. However, reality and substance were given to the collective effort in Korea, even within three months and this has been an impressive demonstration of the way in which the United Nations may become an instrument for collective action amongst the free nations.