

What do the Charter principles imply? The principle of sovereign equality means not only that national self-interest should be protected but that the rights of others will be fully respected. Settling disputes by peaceful means does not refer only to disputes between third parties but to all disputes and to all parties directly involved. Refraining from the use of threat of force means self-denial. Giving assistance to the United Nations means backing its decisions fully, even when costs are high and when specific action taken by the organization is not entirely satisfactory to each and every member.

I have restated these fundamentals precepts, enunciated in Article 2 of the Charter, because they have a direct bearing on many current developments both within the United Nations framework and in the general conduct of international relations. Wholehearted adherence to those principles and fulfilment in good faith of all Charter obligations are the only real assurance that all members of the United Nations can enjoy the benefits of this international system.

Berlin Example

Consider these basic principles in the light of the situation in Berlin. There the respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms has been sealed off by an infamous wall of concrete and barbed wire. Those who could escape the tyranny of foreign domination, who would breathe the sweet air of freedom, are ruthlessly shot down and left to die on this barricade of slavery. This is the way in which the right of self-determination is exercised behind the frontiers of Soviet domination. This is the way in which fundamental freedoms for all without distinction are observed.

Provoking crisis from time to time, the Soviet Union seeks through unilateral action to upset agreed arrangements in Berlin, and to deprive the Western powers of their rights and West Berliners of their freedom. Mr. Khrushchov tells us that West Berlin is a threat to peace and security in the so-called socialist states, that it is a NATO base for aggression. The one-way traffic of refugees seeking haven in that beleaguered city--a traffic which defies the wall, the wire and the bloodshed--answers the hollowness of this contention.

These sordid developments at the Berlin wall, this disregard for human dignity and for solemn undertakings, are unworthy of the Soviet Union. Contrast them with the spectacular and daring adventures of the "heavenly twins", Nikolayev and Popovich.

These brave young cosmonauts, like their American counterparts, have demonstrated that man's restless desire to conquer the unknown extends to the unlimited reaches of the universe. In a few short hours they travelled well beyond the distance of a return trip to the moon.