

But the Indonesian patriots had an alternative to guerrilla warfare. Their case was brought before the U.N. By careful negotiation, helped along by good sense and patience on the part of both the Dutch and the Indonesians, the issue was worked out peacefully. The Republic was established; the Dutch army went back to Holland; Indonesia is today an independent nation with membership in the U.N. But if there had been no U.N. to consider the Indonesian case ...?

Then there's the story of Palestine. War actually started there. It looked as though it would go on and spread until the whole Near East would be in flames. In other days, such a war in the Near East would almost certainly have drawn in the European powers, for they have great interests in the control of that end of the Mediterranean.

Then the U.N. stepped in. It tried to arrange a truce. The first representative of the U.N. who tackled what looked like an impossible task, Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden, was assassinated in Jerusalem. But Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, his American assistant, took over and after long, long negotiations, induced both sides - the Israelis and the Arabs - to agree to a cease-fire and a truce line. For that, Dr. Bunche was awarded the Nobel peace prize, and well he deserved it.

It may be objected that the U.N. obtained only a truce in Palestine, not a firm peace. That is true. The situation is still tense; sporadic outbreaks along the truce line from time to time remind the world how much danger of another explosion remains. But is it not better to have a truce, even an uneasy truce, than to have a continuing war which might easily bring on another world war? The U.N. provided the alternative by which that truce was gained. In so doing, it helped preserve the peace of the rest of the world, including the United States. What if there had not been this alternative?

Consider Kashmir. Here is a beautiful, rich region which two nations, Pakistan and India, are determined to possess. Fighting had started between irregular forces and armies were being moved up in preparation for a major war. Once again the U.N. offered its good offices; the fighting was stopped; a truce line was drawn and the process started for determining the future of Kashmir by peaceful negotiation.

Is it objected that the Kashmir question is not yet settled? That's true. But again, isn't a truce, which gives opportunity for an ultimate settlement by peaceful means, better than a war? A war between Pakistan and India would involve from the start half a billion people. Eventually, a war on that scale would probably drag in all the rest of us. Here's another instance where we can thank God that the U.N. offered an alternative, and that Pakistan and India, both members of the U.N., were ready to turn to that alternative.

Or reflect on what has happened with regard to some of the native peoples in Africa. Africa is seething today with the demands of some regions for independence and of others for much greater rights for the native tribesmen. The terrible things that have taken place during the Mau Mau