

approval which their policies have generated. Furthermore, they have served as a sharp reminder to the non-Communist world of the extent to which these governments aspire to consolidate their domestic power by establishing state control over varied aspects of the life of the peoples they govern.

Regret has been expressed in many quarters that stronger action was not taken. The United Nations, however, is not in a position to exert the kind of pressure which might rescue the victims of persecution and alter the policy of Communist governments. None of the countries concerned is a member of the United Nations. Their policy with regard to human rights has, of course, been one of the principal reasons why a large majority of members of the United Nations refused to accept their application for membership. This is one sanction which could be exercised until the applicants show more regard for the fundamental principles of the Charter. It is unfortunately true, however, that the non-observance of these fundamental freedoms is equally characteristic of Eastern European states which are already members of the United Nations. Similar charges could also have been laid against Czechoslovakia and Poland, for example. Some doubts, however, have been expressed as to the competence of the United Nations to intervene in such questions because of the terms of Article 2(7) of the Charter which states that:

Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII.

There is no doubt, however, that those who signed the Peace Treaties with Hungary, Bulgaria and Roumania have the right to insist upon the observance of fundamental freedoms by those countries which pledged themselves to such observance in the treaties. There is no doubt, furthermore, of the right of the United Nations to concern itself with a denial of human rights in any part of the world.

Spain

The relations of members of the United Nations with Spain were originally determined by a resolution of the second part of the First Session of the General Assembly on December 12, 1946, which recommended the debarring of Franco Spain from membership in the specialized agencies; the consideration of the situation by the Security Council if, within a reasonable time, a democratic government were not established in Spain; and the immediate withdrawal by members of the United Nations of their ambassadors and ministers in Madrid.

At the Second Session of the General Assembly in 1947, the question of Spain was reviewed. A resolution reaffirming the 1946 resolution was rejected, but the Assembly expressed its confidence that the Security Council would exercise its responsibilities as soon as it considered that the situation in Spain so required. The Security Council considered the question in June