

C234819

committees. In accordance with that recommendation there have been tentatively scheduled, subject to approval by the Conference in plenary session now, the following informal organizing meetings for tomorrow:

Officers of Commission I and the officers of its committees, 10:30 tomorrow morning in room 303 of the Veterans Building;

Officers of Commission II and officers of its committees, also at 10:30 tomorrow morning in room 213 of the Veterans Building;

Officers of Commission III and officers of its committees, at 3:30 tomorrow afternoon in room 303 of the Veterans Building; and

Officers of Commission IV and officers of its committees, at 3:30 tomorrow afternoon in room 213 of the Veterans Building.

I understand that any members of the various commissions and committees, other than the officers, who may desire to attend those informal meetings as auditors, will be welcome.

MR. MOLOTOV (speaking in Russian; English version as delivered by interpreter follows): Does any delegation wish to comment on the Secretary General's statement?

Inasmuch as there is no one wishing to make comments on the Secretary General's statement, permit me to regard this report as approved.

At this session, we shall conclude the series of statements made by the chairmen of delegations who have expressed their desire to address the Conference.

The Chair recognizes as the first speaker the Secretary of Foreign Relations and Chairman of the Delegation of Mexico, Mr. Padilla.

MR. PADILLA (speaking in Spanish; English version as delivered by interpreter follows): Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: I wish my first words to convey my profound devotion and gratitude to the heroes and martyrs of war, to the armed forces of the United Nations among whose flags my country has made its fervent contribution.

357

-2-

C234820

Twenty-five years ago men of good-will endeavored to do away forever with the savage recourse to armed strife. Everyone hailed with emotion the League of Nations; but the intelligence and the will of the world were as yet unprepared.

Shortly thereafter perverse forces threatening peace began to rise on all sides--economic warfare, isolationism, the sad spectacle of a peace organization powerless against the most flagrant violations of the principles on which it was founded. Manchuria, Abyssinia, Albania offered as rewards for international crime in the face of a will paralyzed by disagreement among the great democracies of the world. A dream of peace shattered among the ruins of Spain, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Norway, Belgium, Holland, France. Then the long night of suffering and destruction, the memory of which will always fill our hearts with horror.

Out of this desolate picture we representatives of the United Nations have brought to this assembly the renewed determination to guarantee to posterity that such a hell on earth shall be no more.

But now we come armed with experience of the failure of an ideal and with a system of principles that constitute the charter of victory.

The organization we are creating will require weapons--planes, tanks, warships. Yet if we really want permanent security and peace, there is a spiritual force we must create as effective as those material forces--the reciprocal respect and confidence of all nations, large and small.

International life should be a factory of confidence, not arrogance. Good faith and the spirit of unity among the great powers are the cornerstones of peace.

It is the duty of the small nations to make every possible contribution toward the maintenance of that essential solidarity among the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, and China.

Small nations do not threaten peace. A moral force, invisible but formidable, is on the side of the small nations. They live in the protective shadow of their own sacrifices and other contributions to the cause of right.

This war began with the treacherous Axis aggression against peoples guilty only of innocence and weakness. The world's democracies arose against such brutality and in

357

-3-