

Technical Assistance Board. The establishment of this Programme is a recognition in concrete and practical form of the necessity, if peace is to endure, of raising the standard of living in under-developed countries. The hope is that, as a result of technical assistance, people in economically backward countries may be helped to raise the standard of living of their people, by using their resources to better advantage, by growing more food, by developing more power, by bettering their standards of education, by adopting technical health and welfare services which will remove some of the causes of poverty. The Technical Assistance Programme has only begun, and no one is yet certain whether it will fulfil its great purposes. It is, however, a good and encouraging example of the use of United Nations machinery, with the object of serving an immediate and practical purpose in international affairs.

I spoke also of the United Nations as a world forum - a kind of international town meeting, in which the issues of international affairs could be defined and discussed. This function of the United Nations is, of course, of mixed value, for the tendency of some countries to make of the United Nations a sounding board for propaganda is at the moment one of its greatest handicaps. However, I believe that from the welter of words that is poured out at Lake Success, the voluminous, verbose, prolific and often times tedious debate that goes on, there may come a clarification of the issues in international affairs. This I think is particularly true of the issues between the Communist and the Free World. The Cominform states have sought again and again to use the platform of the United Nations as an instrument for spreading their propaganda. When the debate has been pressed home, they have shown on every issue which they have raised, that in the last analysis they are unwilling to compromise with the free world on any terms save their own. We must admit that a good many of the debates at Lake Success are frankly of a propaganda character, and that they have no concrete or practical effect whatever in the lives of men and women. But in these debates, which for the most part centre around the great issue between the Communist World and the Free World, the Communist states gain no appreciable measure of support from governments beyond the reach of the armies of the U.S.S.R. By forcing these propaganda debates upon the United Nations, the U.S.S.R. has wasted a great deal of the time of the organization, but it has also, in spite of its persistent misuse of the language of democracy, revealed to the free community the true nature of its purposes, so that its support amongst member governments has steadily been reduced until it now includes only the pitiful captive states which surround it.

Amongst the various functions of the United Nations, its role as a security organization is of principal interest in the year 1950. This is often regarded as the central purpose of the United Nations. It has been held that basically the object of the organization is to create a system of collective security within which the member States will guarantee each other against the dangers of attack. With this purpose in mind, the states which signed the Charter accepted commitments far greater than had ever before been written into the constitution of an international organization. The chapters of the Charter which established