

During the war our experts, like the others, worked on the preparations for the peace. Views differed between countries and within each country as to what should be done and when it should be done. But all were agreed that an international organization should be set up.

I remember in a speech at Williamstown back as far as 1943, I expressed the hope that the organization should be set up during the war so that the nations should get the habit of working together when they were bound together in the unity of a single common objective, the defeat of the enemy. For the same reason I took the view that it would be a good thing to make peace quickly after victory. It was possible then to foresee the struggle which has since occurred for the torn body of defeated Germany.

Another object in setting up the organization quickly was to present a forum in which the conflicting interests of the three super powers would not come into as sharp and grinding a contact as they would do if only four or five of them met together.

In October, 1943, it was decided at Moscow to start the machinery going. The meetings of Dumbarton Oaks in 1944 were followed by the Conference in San Francisco, which produced the charter of the United Nations on June 26, 1945.

The Charter was a pretty realistic document. It recognized for example that no great power will put itself in a position where it will allow its vital interest to be decided by a bare numerical majority. Peace can be made neither by votes nor vetoes. The Charter provided machinery for co-operation in building the foundation of positive peace, not the mere absence of war.

Despite all this work and the wishes of two billion people, the United Nations has not been able to establish the atmosphere of security. The international climate has in fact grown steadily worse. That has not been due to the charter or to the United Nations. It has been due just to one thing - the attitude of the Soviet Union.

Apart from security, however, the United Nations has accomplished many things. Under its auspices there have been established agreements and working arrangements between nations on trade, food, labour, finance, banking, social questions, aviation, relief, refugees, narcotics, justice, statistics and so on. It's a big list and that work must be carried on.

I was privileged to take part in the conference which set up the World Health Organization. It is one agency in which the Soviet Bloc has worked with the others.

By and large these activities carried on by the United Nations and its specialized agencies have been useful and promising. They have set a pattern for international co-operation, they have helped to create the habit of working together.

We have the machinery. We have abundant good-will. We want to co-operate. But the Soviet Union will not co-operate on matters of major policy. At every conference Soviet representatives deliberately obstruct every effort to make peace. The Soviets are "bending every effort of propoganda and sabotage to defeat the Marshall Plan and prolong Europe's chaos and misery".

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