

At the present time in Havana, A World Trade Conference of 62 nations is completing an agreement on a very wide basis to prevent unfair and restrictive practices in the conduct of international trade. In brief, it can very properly be stated that much of the necessary machinery for the conduct of the world's affairs on a rational and neighbourly basis is already in existence, and would become very much more effective if all threats to the world's peace could be finally removed.

The achievements, then, of the less publicized technical organizations of the United Nations have been considerable; I suppose technical problems are more likely to be discussed objectively than political issues - or to put it more frankly, it seems to be true that scientists usually are better than diplomats at getting along with one another. But even in purely political matters, the United Nations has not been without success. It has become an open forum of international discussion - at its sessions the world's statesmen discuss their differences face to face, with the entire world to hear them and when discussion is at an end they stand up and are counted.

But more concretely, the complaint of Iran against the U.S.S.R. early in 1946 was dealt with energetically by the Security Council; a mission of investigation was sent to Greece late in the same year, and the grave disorders threatening to engulf Indonesia in savage conflict have now been calmed. Foreign troops in Syria and Lebanon were peacefully withdrawn, and the dispute between Great Britain and Albania over mine damage to British warships is now before the International Court of Justice. There has indeed been no substantial agreement on disarmament nor on the control of atomic energy, but an enormous amount of preliminary work has been accomplished and the areas of disagreement are now well defined. Protection and comfort and maintenance are being given daily to almost three-quarters of a million refugees whose re-establishment or resettlement the United Nations has undertaken. Economic commissions have been established to aid in the reconstruction of those areas of the world devastated by war, and to-day and every day four million children are being fed by the Children's Fund of the United Nations.

The campaign to raise funds by voluntary subscription for the relief of children in the war devastated countries is meeting with outstanding success. Our own government has contributed five million dollars directly to the International Children's Emergency Fund and an additional \$400,000. to the present voluntary campaign.

These contributions, including those that are so generously made by individuals, are not only a splendid demonstration of humanitarian and charitable sentiments but they will also serve as an additional arm in the cold war against the threatening spread of communism. They will help to inspire and confirm confidence in the realistic nature of that common front for freedom which is now being consolidated.

This is still of course a very troubled world and the present menaces to our safety and our freedom are grave and the difficulties to be overcome are substantial but, in our own land, we have achieved mutual confidence and domestic security in spite of great difficulties.

There is still hope that men and women of good-will can achieve the same results in the wider field of international co-operation by reminding themselves that what is best for all, - and there can be no question that peace and security are best for all - will also be better for each than anything which armed conflict could possibly win.