

when the Charter, like any important constitutional document, has gathered a body of precedent and interpretation, and when we have had nine years of experience of its actual operation to guide us, such a stock-taking is normal and may produce useful results. We should, however, regard the process as one of review, which is how it is actually described in Article 109, and should not overlook the considerable constitutional difficulties in the way of revision nor assume either that the Charter must be revised or that such revisions would be a panacea for whatever may be unsatisfactory in the present state of international relations. If we really want the Charter to work, it will work. If we do not, no amount of tinkering will make it work.

In trying to sum up the year's events at the United Nations in a few words, it might be said that in the economic and social field there has as usual been much patient, constructive and inconspicuous work. A healthy review and remarshalling of the forces of the organization itself, as a functioning mechanism, has been largely completed. In the political and security field, there have undoubtedly been some discouragements and setbacks and there are issues to be met, both in the United Nations and outside, which will call upon all our reserves of skill, understanding and patience. But the results of our search for constructive solutions to the problems which threaten international peace and security, though they leave little room for complacency, are no excuse for despair or defeatism, and should strengthen our resolve to use to its utmost capacity the tool we have ourselves fashioned to aid us in the long and weary search for peace.