

the administrative responsibility of some of these sovereign states over dependent peoples in their progress towards self-government, with the legitimate interest of the United Nations in human rights and in peaceful progress towards a wider freedom for all peoples. These are not merely arid, academic debates. They relate to issues which in a dynamic world arouse strong passions, and directly concern the fate of many millions of human beings. In general, discussion of these issues was conducted in the seventh session with a moderation and responsibility which we must all hope will continue.

The past year witnessed the resignation of our first Secretary-General, Mr. Trygve Lie, and the appointment of his successor, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold. To create, to maintain, and to preserve the traditions of an international public service in the climate of the critical post-war years has not been, and is not now, any easy task. That our organization has made so much progress here is a tribute to the administrative leadership and authority of Mr. Lie and his assistants and to all who have worked faithfully in the service of the United Nations. From our new Secretary-General we have already come to expect, and I know we shall receive, international service of the highest order.

I share Mr. Hammarskjold's hope, expressed in his Annual Report on the work of the organization, that in their policies all member governments will reaffirm "the respect they have pledged in the charter for the independent position of the Secretariat of the United Nations, and the recognition there given to the essential role of an international civil service in an irrevocably interdependent world."

At the end of seven years, the United Nations can still draw on a tremendous fund of world-wide support. Despite the gulf which divides the world, despite the failure of some sections of opinion to recognize the facts of interdependence, despite the inadequacy of our own efforts in translating aspirations into reality, there is a growing world community - spanning continents, races, languages and faiths - which follows and supports international efforts towards world co-operation.

May the assembly which now begins by its work and by its results strengthen and encourage and widen this co-operation.

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