

recently. The old diplomacy -- even the old secret diplomacy -- has shone at times by contrast.

It is now quite clear that the primary interest of certain governments in the United Nations Assembly is the use to which it can be put as an agency for the propagation of national policies, and subversive ideologies which are very often used for the support of such policies. The experience of the recent Assembly seems to show that, in the pursuit of this objective, any means justifies the end; any techniques are permissible. No holds are barred, no rules of truth or conduct are observed. No decent international purpose is sought or served.

The "war-mongering" debate at the last assembly was a good example of this propaganda practice. It was introduced by the delegate of the U.S.S.R. in a resolution which was so worded and in a speech that was so provocative and intemperate that acceptance was impossible. But no one wished to be put in a position of supporting "war-mongering". So conscientious delegates were, for a time, in a dilemma. That may have been one purpose of the Soviet resolution. Another was its value for home consumption, both inside Russia and, more or less the same thing, inside communist parties outside Russia. There might have been a useful and constructive debate on this subject, during which the unanimous yearning of all peoples for peace and their horror at the blood and sacrifice of war, might have been given moving and impressive expression in the Assembly of the nations, with a ringing and sincere declaration against every form of war-mongering, including civil war-mongering. Instead of that we had violent tirades and personal attacks, on the one side, and efforts on the other at protection against this international mud-slinging. Too often, at the last assembly, the town meeting of the world tended to become an ideological brawl.

The use of the assembly for such offensive propagandistic purposes; for attacks on nations as a part of power policies; for undermining the democratic way of life, and stirring up class and racial hatreds, and every form of civil strife, is the prostitution of our United Nations organization to an ignoble and aggressive purpose.

In the face of this, what should delegations do who still believe in the high ideals of the United Nations and in the possibility of free peoples working together for peace, friendship and prosperity? Should they reply in kind? No. There is no need to lower ourselves to that level. Not reply at all? That would be a mistake. We should not let this struggle go by default. We should, I suggest, do two things. Expose, coolly and factually, the false arguments and conclusions of those who are trying to establish a totalitarian tyranny, which is as old as sin and as reactionary as slavery. More important, however, we should go on the offensive ourselves. Those peoples who believe in freedom and democracy, justice and equality before the law, who are genuinely sincere in their efforts to broaden and deepen the area of international cooperation, should take the lead in declaring the progressiveness and the superiority of their policies and ideals in the councils of the nations. The fact is that the United Nations, through no fault of the freedom loving states, is becoming a vital field for political warfare. In that warfare we should take the offensive, and should back up that offensive by showing the people on the dark side of the moon that our system works better than theirs for the only purpose worth achieving, the dignity, security and prosperity of the individual man.

This does not mean that because certain states use the United Nations for furthering a selfish and aggressive national policy or for promoting subversive movements, (sometimes the two coincide) that others need follow this bad example. There could be no quicker way of destroying our international organization or weakening our own position inside that organization. We can exalt our own free way of life without being shrill or ill-tempered over that which others choose, or have