

The seriousness of this problem in the free world should be neither minimized nor exaggerated. It is essentially a disagreement over degree and pace, and the balancing of objectives. I believe we shall find the right solution to it. The United Nations should help us to do so.

After seven years, the United Nations is still a young organization, still largely an experiment. But one thing has become increasingly evident. Despite the disappointments we have all encountered, the spirit of interdependence in the world is growing. Today there is more contact, diplomatic and otherwise, between peoples of different races, religions and cultures than at any time in the world's history, and much credit for this is due to the United Nations. Apart from those countries which have chosen - or have been forced - to seal themselves off from the rest of the world, our increasing contacts with each other are slowly reducing the ignorance, suspicion and fears which have in the past proved such a fertile breeding ground for war. The progress is slow, but it is in the right direction and it is constantly being made, often in United Nations bodies which receive very little publicity. We must not, then, think of the United Nations solely in terms of the bitter disputes that now loom so large in the headlines. Our hope for the future of our world organization has a deeper and more solid foundation than these headlines would suggest. The war against ignorance and prejudice and, yes, even against fear goes on. That war will never be won by avoiding battles, but also it will not be won by rashly seeking engagements which, by the skilful deployment of voting battalions, result in victories which are Pyrrhic only. There is a strategy of international action between these two extremes which, if we follow it steadily and patiently and perseveringly will result one day in victory. Let us follow it.

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