

"I must fairly say that I dread our own power and
ambition. I dread our being too much dreaded. ...
I say that we shall not abuse this astonishing and
unheard-of power. But every other nation will
... Sooner or later this state of
affairs must produce a combination against us which may end
our ruin."

If the go-it-aloners in Great Britain needed that
much more is it needed by the go-it-
aloners in the United States today?

One of the most thought-provoking sights in today's
world is to be seen these days at the headquarters
of the United Nations in New York. It is not the striking
buildings, the soaring, glass-walled home of the General
Assembly and the U.N. Councils and committees and commissions
which were designed by a company of
foremost architects recruited from all over the world, and
as they stand in their massive beauty beside the East river
they challenge the eye in that city of eye-challenging
skyscrapers.

But the impressive sight is not the U.N. buildings.
It is, rather, the long lines of people--ordinary people,
drawn from every nation, people like ourselves--who form
day after day to visit this place where the nations meet in
council. About 20,000 of them every week pay a dollar each
to be guided through the buildings. Nearly twice as many,
when the Assembly is in session, come as absorbed, tense
observers at the meetings which may be in progress. The long
lines are still waiting there seeking admission when darkness
falls. No other tourist attraction in New York draws half
as many visitors.

Why do they come, day after day, these thousands
on thousands? Not simply to look at buildings. There are
other more impressive buildings in New York. And not simply
to be able to go home and say that they have "done" another
right tourist are supposed to see. But the reason for
these seemingly endless lines, we are convinced after watching
this phenomenon and talking to some who have helped to make
it, is the deep though often instinctive longing of the
world's ordinary people for peace. They want peace for their
nations and for the world. And they come to see whether in
the U.N. war is being warded off and peace shielded.

We think they come to the right place. We think
that most of them go away convinced that this U.N. they have
seen in action, young and struggling and handicapped as it
is, is in truth a shield against the ominous forces working
to produce world tragedy.

As you study the working of the United Nations, as
you ponder what the alternatives to this organization of the
nations would be, we believe that you too will see in it
such a shield. And you will, we trust, accept as one of the
responsibilities of your citizenship an obligation to see
that in your community, wherever your personal influence can
reach, this great venture for peace and international co-
operation receives the support it merits. To evade that
obligation is to surrender the future to chaos.