What UN Can Do

There are some things the United Nations can do; there are others it cannot do. The United Nations is limited by the fact that Berlin is part of the peace settlement with Germany and is, therefore, under the Charter, reserved for consideration by the victorious powers. However, if the four powers decide they would like the United Nations to play a part, then there are roles the United Nations can play. There is the question of safeguarding the maintenance of peace; and where the peace is threatened, if the majority of the United Nations decide that this is being done by the U.S.S.R. or by any other nation, the matter could be brought before the United Nations. Mr. Khrushchov said in his interview with Mr. Sulzberger of the New York Times that he is not averse to United Nations discussions if the Big Four agree.

Various suggestions have been made. One is that the whole of the city of Berlin could be placed under the trusteeship of the United Nations, with access guaranteed by a UN force. There have been suggestions that the United Nations should be moved from New York to Berlin. Speaking for myself, I may say that suggestion has no appeal...

I think the time has come when consideration might be given--and the United Nations might give consideration thereto--to the internationalizing of the city of Berlin under the United Nations, with its status to continue under United Nations presence. I realize that this suggestion would not receive the support of Mr. Khrushchov. However, it at least would bring about a step forward in the assurance that if negotiation failed, the United Nations would have something to which it could give its attention. It would require uncontrolled access by the West. It would also require a willingness on the part of the four powers to agree.

Moral Responsibility

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Someone has said that matters like this should not be discussed in advance of election campaigns in other parts of the world. I believe this is a serious enough matter that it should be discussed, if only for the purpose of directing the attention of mankind to a possible solution before it becomes too late to do so. As I said in Winnipeg and now repeat, Canada being one of the smaller nations, a member of NATO and of NORAD, with its record of sacrifice it has a right and a responsibility to place its views before mankind. After all, if the decision is left to four nations, without any suggestions having come from the smaller nations, the moral responsibility will rest on the governments of the smaller nations for having failed to advance their views.

There is one thing I wish to point out. I read that one of the pundits said that in the course of my Winnipeg speech I had not revealed the points which would be subject to negotiation. I can only say that I have never known any success to be attained by revealing in advance of negotiations the stand you are going to take. However, that does not mean that the stand should not have been determined upon. That does not imply either that the Government of Canada, in its desire for peace, has not made a number of important suggestions which, in the perspective of the iuture, can be revealed.