

It is manifestly evident that the United Nations cannot prevent conflict among the Great Powers. They must negotiate their way out of the maze of differences which divide them. In recent years, the United Nations has demonstrated its capacity to deal with local wars and situations and, in effect, to contain the terrible threat of world conflagration. This underlines the importance and urgency of devoting the attention and energy of the United Nations to the task of improving its peace-keeping methods. The experience of the past points the way to improvement and the indications of the present are that many member states are determined to strengthen the Organization's capacity to act effectively.

After a year or more of sustained pressure from a number of quarters, the United Nations nonetheless found itself, at the end of 1961, able to face the new year with renewed confidence. The great majority of member states continued to regard the Organization as the best hope for peaceful solution and for constructive international co-operation. On balance, 1961 was a year of accomplishment which offered promise that, even in the vastly changed circumstances of the sixties, the United Nations could succeed in the pursuit of those purposes and principles which the Charter of 1945 prescribed and which today remain among the highest aspirations of all mankind.