

for a decisive and fairly rapid advance in the scale and level of community organization and community attitudes, as the only alternative to serious risk of unparalleled destruction".

Neighbourhood is merely a fact. Naturally, as our means of getting around have improved, the area of neighbourhood has increased until today it is for many purposes global: but it is still merely a fact: in itself neither good or bad, just one of those things. What matters is what we do about it. Technical developments have enormously increased men's capacity to be bad neighbours. And this fact correspondingly deepens our need to match the fact of neighbourhood by the achievement of good neighbourliness: for the risk, if we fail to match it, is great and growing.

It would be fatuous to be complacent, or to be too sure that our generation and the next will rise in time to this challenge, even the magnitude of which is hardly yet appreciated. It seems to be the case that within a very few years men will be able so to pollute the atmosphere of the planet as to destroy all life. If they wish to do so, that is - or if they are sufficiently heedless. It seems to be inevitable that a good many countries will soon have that power, if indeed they do not have it already. It is a question whether men are good enough, or human society well organized enough, for the competitive possession of powers of this sort to be very safe.

When one takes an objective look at our human situation, there are certainly a number of disturbing signs: hate, hysteria, or hardness of heart seem to be as common as ever - perhaps a bit more so. And they are incomparably more dangerous. But there are also signs that intellectual horizons are in fact stretching, and that attitudes are adjusting to the new demands of neighbourliness: and when these things happen, appropriate actions and institutions follow.

One of the best illustrations of good neighbourliness in action is of course the work of the Red Cross. In 1953 I happened to be a member of one of our Embassies in the Low Countries, and had the opportunity of seeing something of the work which Miss Margaret Wilson very capably carried out there on your behalf to help the flood victims. It was very impressive: and that was only one instance among many. But it would be presumptuous of me to try to tell you anything about your own activities. Let us consider instead some of the instances where governments, in their behaviour toward one another, are acting increasingly as good neighbours.

During the past eight years I have had the fortune to be a member of Canadian delegations at a good many sessions of the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, and other organs and bodies of the United Nations. In recent years I have worked chiefly with the Security Council, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Assembly's political committees - and certainly these have been the branches which have got most of the headlines. In these bodies