

for in the General Assembly resolution on "United Action for Peace". A Collective Measure Committee has been established in order to examine this and other related questions.

These developments, I think, mark an important step forward in the direction of providing the United Nations with effective military forces. To an extent which I think would have surprised anyone canvassing the possibilities before the attack on Korea, progress has been made in giving reality to the ideal of an international force, ready and competent to resist aggression. For centuries this ideal has attracted thinkers distressed by the conflicts between lawless and warring nations and anxious to find a means of bringing these antagonisms under the rule of law. The formation of international police forces has always seemed the only practical and logical issue from these age-old and seemingly interminable conflicts. The alluring analogy of the composition of personal and tribal feuds by the creation of police power on a national scale has suggested to many minds the way in which national conflicts must be composed. And in consequence, a great number of paper plans have been proposed, none of which has ever been implemented.

We must hope that the present effort, to make the United Nations into a more effective instrument for maintaining peace, does not suffer the fate of these earlier attempts. There is reason for such hope. This resolution is rooted in present day political realities. It springs from a vivid and recent experience in which many nations realized the crying need for effective collective action. Furthermore, the innovations which it proposes, do not demand from nation states a greater sacrifice of sovereignty than, in present circumstances, they may be expected to accept. For that very reason, however, it would be a mistake to over-rate the advance marked by this action of the United Nations. It is unlikely that all of the members of the organization will be willing to maintain elements within their national armed forces available for use in the United Nations. Even those nations which do will still retain ultimate control over whatever forces they may from time to time place under the United Nations. The effect of this resolution, therefore, even if it proves as successful as I believe it will in beginning the creation of international police forces, will still fall short of what would be required before we could be sure that national antagonisms can be disciplined and national forces brought under international control.

We live today, like men in all ages, in a world of power. Nor do I think we should be squeamish or resentful about that fact. In a famous phrase Lord Acton once complained "All power corrupts". That is only partly true. Power is corrupting only if it is divorced from responsibility, from justice and from mercy. It must be tamed and harnessed. In particular, it must be harnessed to serve the purpose of that sphere of social responsibility which is increasingly being crystallized and codified as law. That in the international sphere will be our supreme and sovereign task for many years to come. We still have a long distance to go.