

has helped us to create, the interdependence of regions and nations has become so much a fact of our daily existence that extensive and well co-ordinated machinery for concerted international action over a wide range of economic, social and cultural problems has become essential to our present way of life. Basically these activities contribute to and make for peace. I suggest to you that had the United Nations proved completely ineffective in dealing with political disputes -- which it has not -- the United Nations or some other organization of universal proportions would still have had to be maintained for the regulation of the myriad fields in which the international community is now so interdependent. Let me stress again that it would be folly to allow disappointment at certain security shortcomings in the world organization to obscure its solid achievement in the economic, social and cultural fields, as exemplified in the work of the Economic and Social Council and the many specialized agencies which have been set up under its aegis. At the last session of the General Assembly, a new Chapter in this kind of activity was begun in the creation of the United Nations Special Fund which will enable the United Nations to participate in pilot projects in under-developed countries, in fields such as resource surveys, housing or sanitation. The possibilities which this new project opens up for the betterment of all mankind are virtually limitless and in some respects no less exciting than the dramatic issues of war and peace which tend to overshadow the more pedestrian activities of the United Nations.

Forum for Negotiation

But to revert to those questions which have involved the maintenance of peace, I hasten to make plain that I am not of those who believe that the United Nations has proven ineffective in this field. In spite of its inability to bring force to bear to implement its decisions and in spite of the fundamental differences between the Communist Bloc and the rest of the world, the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations have been instrumental in resolving a host of potentially dangerous situations, simply by providing a forum in which the process of negotiations and conciliation can go forward. It is, after all, of the essence of a peaceful settlement that there be negotiation between the parties to a dispute. The Charter enjoins member states to have recourse to bilateral talks and regional arrangements before turning to the facilities of the United Nations. Thus the Charter itself recognizes that the United Nations machinery is not the only means available for the pacific settlement of disputes and it is generally recognized that there are occasions when the United Nations alone might not be the most effective forum. Even in such cases, however, the opportunity for discussion and multilateral negotiation which is afforded by the 82 nation General Assembly can be a most useful adjunct to conventional