

that this is no time to weaken in our support for, let alone abandon support for, this indispensable piece of international machinery merely because it has falsified some of the illusions that we may have had when the charter was drafted. After all, we do not throw away a car because the wrong kind of gas stalls it.

"Having painted a rather gloomy picture of some aspects of the work of the Assembly, I think it is only fair I should add that real achievements are being made in the Seventh Assembly, and that in one sense it is a tribute to the United Nations itself and to the importance of the Assembly that these controversial political issues are being discussed there and that the big powers take this agency so seriously as to discuss them in the terms that they do. It would indeed be the end of all hope for the United Nations if it became a body merely for the exchange of meaningless courtesies. Furthermore, headline controversies should not lead to ignoring the solid achievements made by the United Nations in the social, humanitarian and economic fields. Progress is being made along those lines in this seventh session but the progress is not such as to command very much attention."

#### PROGRESS IN NATO

In NATO, he said, we had continued to make progress since his last report to the House. He proceeded, in part:

"There have been comments in the press from time to time that the NATO programme for 1952, agreed upon at Lisbon last February and so strongly criticized in certain quarters, will not be 100 per cent completed by the end of this year. This will, I suppose, turn out to be the case though we do not yet know exactly what the total NATO forces available by the end of this year will be. Yet on the information that has been made available to me I am quite confident now that the so-called 'Lisbon goals' for 1952--this will surprise many who thought these goals were unattainable and that the very effort to reach them would result in economic chaos--will be in very large measure achieved. I do not think I should say anything more on this subject until after the Council meeting.

"In any event, I do not think we should lay too great emphasis on mathematical targets for any given date for forces under arms, provided we are making steady progress towards our goals and are not at any time dangerously short of what has been planned for a particular period.

"In one important respect, which is sometimes overlooked, the NATO countries certainly are much stronger. Production lines for military equipment are now rolling in North America and in the United Kingdom, and very considerable progress has been made in this field in western Europe. The equipment posi-

tion of NATO forces is steadily and encouragingly improving.

"If there are some signs of lessening international tension--and there are--this is because of the growing strength and continuing unity of the North Atlantic alliance. But there is certainly nothing to warrant resting on our oars because of that fact, though, as we settle down to the long pull--I believe this is good rowing technique--we may decide to strike a somewhat slower rate. There is certainly no evidence that the Russian military strength has been reduced. There is evidence that an increasing proportion of their military budget is being spent in developing and producing new equipment to strengthen their already huge forces. They are certainly preparing for the long pull, confident that they can outlast the west and, if necessary, wait for the inherent and inevitable contradictions and conflicts of capitalist society to divide, weaken and ultimately destroy us.

#### REARMAMENT EFFECTS

"In this long pull we must not ignore of course--and we do not--the effects of rearmament on the economies of member nations. The national economy of nearly every European member of NATO has been a tender plant since the war, and in the case of European members particularly rearmament has meant continued sacrifices for their peoples. However urgent rearmament is, it has to proceed in accordance with the economic and political capabilities of the member states. Otherwise we would invite those economic and social conditions within member nations which would create a favourable climate for the growth of communism in our society....

"With respect to military security and national security, it is certain that we have not yet achieved it. Although we have made real progress there is still a long way to go in making NATO a defensive bulwark against aggression and as one element in that security. The risk of aggression remains and our recent gains in defensive strength must be consolidated and extended, and our co-operation strengthened and enlarged before we can feel safe. So, I suggest, we must press ahead in our own country, and in other countries of NATO, not merely with strengthening the military side of the alliance but also with building its political, economic and moral strength as well; here progress is sometimes difficult and discouragingly slow.

"We have no reason to assume on our part that there has been any change of policy or of heart on the part of the Kremlin and its satellites in recent months since Stalin has laid down the new party line--characteristically enough in an article in a magazine. It is possible, however, that there has been a switch in tactics in Moscow, as has frequently happened before in the history of communist