

In our preoccupation with regional and limited security and political arrangements, we should not overlook or minimize what has been done during the year by our world organization.

At the United Nations there has been achievement - notably in the Korean armistice. There has also been frustration. The work, however, goes on, and this indispensable piece of international machinery remains at the service of its members in their efforts to realize the ideals of the Charter which established it.

In many fields which, if not spectacular, are of great long-term importance, encouraging and useful progress has been made in 1953. I have mentioned two of the principal long-term problems of the Western democracies - defence against Communist imperialism, and relations with the peoples of Asia. There is a third basic question which sometimes overlaps with the two, but which has a fundamental and distinct importance in itself. In United Nations circles this is called the question of "underdevelopment" - the social and economic relations between the advanced industrial nations and the peoples in those parts of the planet whose economies are still relatively primitive and whose standards of living are consequently low. Particularly through its expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the United Nations has developed a realistic and practicable method whereby the technically more advanced nations can help the economic and social development of those less fortunate. Through this and through other social and economic programmes, and through its various Specialized Agencies, the United Nations has continued to do a great deal of useful, if little publicized, work for human welfare. The amount of resources that can be devoted to such activities may be limited, particularly so long as the threat of aggression necessitates large expenditures for defence; but it would be foolish to forget that for most of the so-called "under-developed" nations of the world, it is precisely in the social and economic articles of the United Nations Charter that they see the main appeal and the greatest value in international co-operation.

Comparing the situation of the Western world with that of a few years ago (and with that too of the 1930's), and looking forward to the problems which lie ahead, we can, I think, feel measured confidence that the general lines of the policies pursued by the Western democracies are sound. If complacency is unjustified, so too is defeatism or despair.

If the free nations, together, with patience and persistence, follow the lines of international policy now laid down, 1954 may bring us closer to the kind of world for which all right-thinking and peace-loving men and women pray.