

That is too long and involved a story to be told here, but the upshot has been that the U.N. has rebuked Dr. Malan's government in South Africa for its procedure in South West Africa, for its treatment of the Indians who live in such numbers in the Union (especially in Natal), and for its apartheid (segregation) policy which denies most rights to the 8,500,000 African natives within its boundaries.

Critics of the U.N. may say that the government of the Union of South Africa pays no attention to these efforts to protect minority rights there. That's the way it looks, and Dr. Malan goes ahead hurling defiance at the U.N. and threatening to withdraw. But South Africa does not withdraw. And the U.N. goes steadily on building up the moral judgment of the rest of the world against South Africa's racial policies.

There are signs that even though Dr. Malan is beginning to feel the pressure. As this is written, it is reported that his government has proposed to meet India and Pakistan in a three-way conference to work out an agreement for better treatment of the Indians in South Africa. He asks that, as a face-saving device, the meeting not be held under U.N. auspices. The U.N., India and Pakistan are willing. They are not interested in face-saving. All they want is human rights and decent treatment for the hapless Indians in South Africa.

There have even been times when the Trusteeship Council has had trouble with the United States. One occurred recently when we announced that since Puerto Rico is now a self-governing commonwealth, with its own constitution, its own elections and its own legislature, we would no longer submit the reports we had been making concerning our administration of that island. This happened just as a considerable portion of the U.N., in its committee which deals with trusteeship matters, was ready to vote for a list of more than 20 "factors" which must be met before a non-self-governing territory is judged to have what the Charter calls "a full measure of self-government."

Since Puerto Rico--which still lacks control of its foreign and military affairs and has certain constitutional acts subject to approval by the U.S. Congress--could not satisfy all these "factors," that would have meant, if the test by "factors" had been adopted, that the U.N. was declaring Puerto Rico not self-governing, and that therefore the United States must continue to send information on this possession.

The United States won that particular tussle in the Trusteeship Committee, though by a narrow margin. Yet the very fact that the powerful United States was challenged as it was, though every delegate knew how generally encouraging the American Administration had been to Puerto Rican aspirations, showed with what watchdog purpose the U.N. is trying to hasten the day when all states and peoples shall be truly free.

In the Service of Mercy

We have seen how the name of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has been changed to the United Nations Children's Fund. There is significance in that change. It shows that in one important field--the needs of children and their mothers--the U.N.