

We were, of course, disappointed to find that the Five Great Powers responsible for calling the International Conference were not prepared to accept the democratic principle of majority decisions, did not have sufficient confidence in each other and in ourselves to feel that their votes and ours would be given only to further the general interests of all the free nations.

They insisted that the United Nations would act only through a Security Council and that no important decision in the Security Council would be made without the concurrence of each of them, in other words, that each of them would have an absolute veto.

When the rest of us signed that Charter, we had to accept this condition and we did so after it had been stated by representatives of the Big Powers that the veto would be used sparingly and with a due sense of responsibility to the world at large.

This statement was made in the presence of the Russian delegates who did not demur but, nevertheless, they have since used their veto more than twenty times and have consistently frustrated the best attempts to make the Security Council workable as the main instrument of the United Nations to secure and maintain peace.

Nevertheless, peace is so important to all of us that we must still regard the United Nations either in its present form or in such modified form as circumstances may make inevitable, as an indispensable medium, and channel, and forum through which the peoples of the world can work out the institutions and arrangements which peace, security and even survival, appear to require.