

## An American Viewpoint

### In the wake of Moynihan:

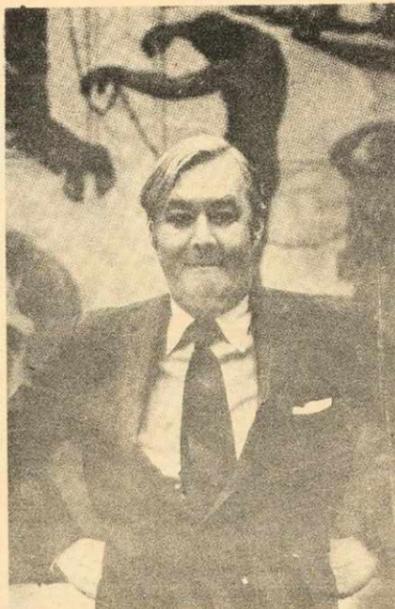
#### What role for the U.S. in the U.N.?

by Don Kniseley

Now that Daniel Patrick Moynihan's brief but notorious career at the UN has come to an anti-climactic finale, it is well to ponder just what legacy he leaves to his replacement. Many Americans are found wondering whether indeed in the aftermath of Moynihan there can be any objectivity in UN debates involving questions of the third world and a new international economic order. More importantly, it is timely to speculate on where we go from here, given that the U.S. has increasingly become anathema among allies and foes alike.

Lest we be too critical, there seem to be at least two positive aspects arising from the belligerent Irish-American's nondiplomatic brand of diplomacy. He may have done both the UN member nations and the U.S. public a service by the candor of his statements, as his line of confrontation has the redeeming feature of decisiveness, in contrast to many of the Ford and Kissinger subtleties. In fact, Moynihan's proclivity to tell it like it is (or as he believed it to be) undoubtedly heightened any dissonance there may have been between him and the State Department and did much to hasten his termination of duties at Turtle Bay.

Secondly, his harangues have focused U.S. attention on the UN for the first time in several years. Although Moynihan has apparently been quite successful in leading middle America through the paces of backlash (70% of Americans gave unconditional support of his tactics in a recent poll), even backlash may be preferable to "benign neglect" if it forces examination at some point. He may have only mirrored the reactionary attitudes of the American people, but eventually both guilt and defiance must be left behind if there is to be meaningful progress. It is obvious that continued "get tough" rhetoric can only exacerbate an already delicate situation, and while Americans historically have been all too ready to acquiesce in the type of victim-blaming Moynihan represents, there is some reason to believe that the extreme line he perpetrates makes his critics all the more plausible. This could certainly be the case if the next U.S. Ambassador to the UN strikes a



Moynihan at the UN

more moderate position with respect to the third world, and at this point it is indeed hard to imagine that anyone can have other than a more moderate stance.

Of course this begs the question of whether the UN will remain (or for that matter, ever has been) a viable unifying force in our troubled world. At the expense of echoing a trite aphorism, I reiterate that at present it is all our troubled world has got. That the UN has little institutionalized capacity to intervene in the lopsided distribution of the earth's riches should not deter our efforts to maintain the premier forum for global debate and discussion. Ultimately, its power lies in the collective effect of what is said and reported on the peoples of every member nation state. Hence the need for other than the continued state of confrontation which seemed to be emerging out of the pugnaciousness manifested in Moynihan; a state in which truculence at all levels is the end product.

The obligation for creating an aura of constructive dialogue lies not only with the U.S., though in light of our history of big stick and carrot foreign policy the initiative surely does. Admittedly Henry Kissinger gave tacit recognition to the need for a new international economic system last fall, but there is little reason to think any state official is very serious in implementing an alternative to the present unjust state of things. And this is precisely what is needed - a commitment to re-constitute global economics. If such a commitment is forthcoming from the U.S. and the rest of the "northern world", the developing countries then have the obligation to act not out of fear of aid reprisals, nor with debilitating accusations, but in mutual realization that everyone's interest is best served in a setting of truly world-wide scope.

Only a heavy mask of naivety could convince us that all the

earth's difficulties can or will be solved at the UN. Nationalism, with all its attendant attributes, both good and bad, is likely to be with this planet for some time, and will unquestionably determine many of the decisions concerning international relations. There will be, however, certain problems which require collective thought and action. The better able the UN is to

meet these problems, the greater the possibility of extending its aegis. At worst, with omnipresent spectres of terrorism, mass starvation, nuclear holocaust and other twentieth century horrors continually compel us to opt for elusive unity among nations. At best, we are motivated by a sense of the necessity and the desirability of global redistributive justice.

### Rebirth of the International Students Association

There are almost a thousand foreign students from some thirty countries at Dalhousie University. This figure is nearly doubled when one includes St. Mary's and Mt. St. Vincent universities as well. Clearly, there is potential for an International Students' Association (ISA) in Halifax, and one that includes both Canadians and non-Canadians.

There are already several major national or regional societies in existence; these include the African, Arabian, Caribbean, Chinese and East Indian groups, as well as the various language clubs. They are largely concerned with social functions for their members and, as such, make a very important contribution to student life.

It is hoped that the ISA will complement these activities by addressing itself to the following main areas of activity:

1) Reception of foreign students. Advance contact should be made with prospective students from overseas, and information sent which will help them decide whether to come, what to bring and what to expect. A reception and orientation programme must be planned to welcome new students each fall, to introduce them to the university, town and community, and to help them make new friends and settle down quickly. Accommodation of foreign students must be recognized as a priority for early consideration.

This work is the concern of the Foreign Student Adviser and the Office of the Dean of Student Services. There are many ways in which the ISA could assist with their programme.

2) Social Events. These are well covered at present by the Student Union and the various national societies. However, there is scope for more multicultural activity on campus; a sharing of foods, costumes, theatre, social customs and traditions, religions, philosophies, arts and crafts... The 'International Nights' which have been held in past years have been very successful. An 'International Bazaar' in the SUB, and regular international lunches could be considered.

3) World Development Activity. Active debate and consideration of the many global problems which we face today is important to us all, as inheritors of a bizarre world! Dire poverty is to be found in all corners of the globe. 460 million people are actually starving; while food is so unevenly distributed that in many cases there is enormous wastage. Population is about to double in the next thirty years; and some 75,000 people a day are migrating to overcrowded cities. An estimated 200 million are unemployed. The resources of the planet are steadily running out; and the environment is being polluted to the outer limits of tolerance. Vast sums are being spent on arms ..... and the world moves ever further from peace.

These problems can only be approached at the international level. They are worthy of a great deal of thought and action by the ISA.

4) "Dalhousie International". This issue is the first of a joint venture by Dal Gazette and the provisional ISA. It hopes to cover the whole spectrum of international concerns, both cultural and political, on a regular basis. It could become a very valuable contribution to the student community; and later perhaps, to the city at large.

Over the past two months the ISA has been organized by an interim steering committee. It is important now that a new committee is elected or that the existing committee receive the endorsement of the larger community of foreign students. The Association has been registered with the Student Union and a provisional constitution has been written. This too is due for revision or endorsement.

There will therefore be a GENERAL MEETING OF THE ISA on Wednesday 10th March in room 314 of the SUB to elect an executive committee. All those who are concerned with the future of the ISA are invited and encouraged to attend. Nominations should reach Dean Marriot's office (A & A building) by the day before the elections. Further information regarding the ISA can be obtained from any of the following:

**Ali AKSU**  
**Eyasu ARAYA**  
**Yogendra DOSHI**  
**Dede IJERE**  
**Sankar SRIVASTAVA**  
**Dorrik STOW**

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR THE QUESTION ARISES: HAD THE BOMB EXISTED IN 1776 WOULD GEORGE WASHINGTON HAVE NUKED YORKTOWN?



WOULD ABE LINCOLN HAVE NUKED VICKSBURG?



WOULD TEDDY ROOSEVELT HAVE RECOMMENDED A TACTICAL STRIKE AGAINST SAN JUAN HILL?



WOULD WOODROW WILSON HAVE NUKED BERLIN?



IN THE EVENT OF ANOTHER KOREAN WAR WILL I NUKE NORTH KOREA?



FOR THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS I TURN TO OUR RESIDENT HISTORIAN, DR. KISSINGER.



I CANNOT BELIEVE WOODROW WILSON WOULD HAVE NUKED BERLIN!

CHAS SUB

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