

### Stability in the UN

It is equally clear that the chief executive of this organization should have whole-hearted support in the discharge of his responsibilities. Our distinguished Acting Secretary-General has shown great courage, great patience and great wisdom during the course of his interim term of office - which, remember, began at a time when confusion reigned in United Nations affairs. During the past year he has given leadership which has restored confidence in the organization.

The underlying need in United Nations affairs is for stability. In these turbulent times, governments require a steady base for international co-operation and for quiet diplomacy. Most people of the world look hopefully to the United Nations to point the way and provide the means to these ends.

A significant element in achieving stability and a capacity to act effectively is to develop orderly procedures. Our distinguished Past President has made some interesting and useful suggestions for improving Assembly procedures. I welcome the decision to inscribe an item on this subject, and I hope some solution will be worked out.

The greatly increased membership of the Assembly and the length of recent sessions give added urgency to the need for the most efficient working methods. The speed and the efficiency with which we carry out our work is an important factor in determining the degree of public support for the United Nations.

In conclusion may I express my firm conviction that the United Nations has emerged from the uncertainty which clouded the sixteenth session. Confidence and stability are being restored. The atmosphere in the present Assembly is favourable for constructive work.

We now have an opportunity to respond to the improved situation by dealing firmly with the main issues before us. We must take encouragement from the recent progress, however gradual, toward peace. We must maintain a steady United Nations course in that direction, conscious of the undercurrents of danger in our troubled world but confident that we can control them.

We live in an age in which there have been several very important developments. First, there has been the greatest spread of self-government in the history of mankind. Second, there has been the greatest interest in helping developing nations. Most of that interest is idealistic and unselfish. I admit that there is some selfishness in it, but primarily it is idealistic and unselfish. Third, there is the greatest friendliness and understanding among peoples. What a great thing it is for a foreign minister to come here and be able to talk to 30 or 40 other foreign ministers, as well as distinguished representatives of other grades. Never has there been such an understanding of