

Where such regional and defensive coalitions are necessary, they can readily be developed within the framework of the Charter.

Our Charter recognizes and regulates, but in no sense prevents them, providing they are organized and operate in accordance with its principles.

The United Nations itself, however, - as a universal organization - at least universal in principle - serves a more fundamental purpose in providing an efficient framework and endless opportunities for negotiation and conciliation, under a system which embraces both sides in what we call the cold war. Those who would view with equanimity any reduction in United Nations membership so that those nations whose aggressive tendencies are, with reason, feared, would be outside rather than inside our international system, have, I think, the wrong conception of the purposes and the possibilities of our organization.

Quite apart from the danger of deliberate aggression, we must recognize that in a tense and fearful world there is also the risk of accidental war, brought about by miscalculation or a misreading or misapprehension on each side of the other's intentions. So whatever the rights and wrongs of a particular situation, such mistakes, of this kind, under modern conditions, could be profoundly dangerous to the entire world. For these reasons, I know we all agree, the greatest importance should be attached to measures which can reduce international tensions, lower temperatures, and remove the barriers, whether they be psychological or physical, to communication.

In my view, nothing could be more dangerous in this divided world than a final and complete failure of man's ability to communicate with man across whatever differences of regime or race or economic conditions, across whatever curtains of fear, or iron or prejudice may exist. As I see it, one of the most vital of our purposes at the United Nations is to keep open and to develop these channels of communication, so that some day, and may it be soon, when both sides are willing, they may be used for conciliation and eventual agreement.

Mankind is only beginning to develop and use the institutions of interdependence, of which the United Nations is by far the most important. This work will not be completed in a day. But it will not be completed at all unless we keep everlastingly at the job of building; of correcting those tendencies which have already made the work more difficult and which may, if we are not careful, stop it altogether.

One such tendency, as I have already indicated, is overloading our agenda with problems some of which may be beyond the competence of this Assembly, or which can best be dealt with, in the first instance, at least, by other methods of conciliation and settlement.

The United Nations is the main highway to international co-operation and unity. If we all try to use it at once, for our own purposes, without observing sensible and responsible rules of the road, the result will certainly be confusion and may be collision. On the other hand, if the road is too often "by-passed" it will fall into disuse