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READING TEXT

Grand Rapids Rotary  
October 21, 1965

At this critical hour in the space of world history, our delight with the progress made by the United Nations so far is somewhat dampened by the need for serious examination of the organization and the responsibilities it must face in the years ahead.

Twenty years ago we looked upon the United Nations with jubilant hopes and enthusiasm. Some think that these emotions have turned to cynicism.

There are those who say the U.N. is dying a slow death. They see no hope for survival.

I emphasize on this eve of the U.N.'s anniversary that we are not here to bury the organization that carries the hope for world peace on the shoulders of its member nations. The U.N. is not ready to be buried. The peoples of the world are not in a mood to sound its death knell. They and the United States want the U.N. to live a long ~~life~~ *life.*



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Certainly, some extremists here and abroad clamor for the disintegration of the United Nations. Thankfully, they constitute a small, if often loud, minority.

We must face reality, of course. The United Nations is in trouble.

For it reflects the condition of the world... as it should.

However...greatness emerges from trouble and strife. Greatness in accomplishments is a hallmark of free men working their will.

I have great confidence that the greatness of the United Nations will slowly emerge if the peoples of the world stand strong in their faith.

On the negative side we can say that the General Assembly is somewhat paralyzed over peacekeeping finances. And above all, the U.N. appears impotent when the major powers bicker and squabble.

The formal veto stifled the Security Council. The silent veto--- the ~~xxxx~~ refusal to pay dues, the failure to play the game according to the rules---undercuts the entire organization.



The past summer, President Johnson ordered a capitulation to the demands of the Soviet Union and 11 other nations by allowing them to dodge their financial obligations as U.N. members.

The President ignored Article 19 of the U.N. charter which clearly states that any nation which has not paid its dues or assessments for two years shall lose its vote in the General Assembly.

Russia, eight of its satellites as well as France, Yemen, and South Africa refused to meet their legal financial obligations for the support of the U.N.

They owe \$108 million for Congo and Middle East peace actions...both vital to preventing war in the world.

In granting Russia and the other nations full voting rights despite their financial delinquency, the President completely and affectly surrendered. He also ignored the expressed will of Congress.

A year ago, the House unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the enforcement of Article 19. I reiterate what I said on the floor at that time.... "There is no room for compromise. Our U.N. delegates should demand that these other nations make their payments as they are required to do so under the Charter and the World Court decision. This is not a negotiable issue in the U.N.

We can ask, what is left for the United Nations?

The answer may be---the right to suggest, to recommend, to persuade, and certainly, to deliberate.

The world atmosphere has drastically changed since the creation of the U.N. in 1945. Therefore, suggestion, recommendation, persuasion, and deliberation may have to be conducted with different outlooks.

Recall what Trygve Lie said about the new U.N....."We have built as strong an organization as all of them could agree ~~upon~~ upon....and as, in their judgment, could in practice be effective at this stage in the history of the world."



Today, history's stage is changed,

Since the words were uttered by Trygve Lie, we have witnessed the mushrooms of atomic fury...the stark reality of the hydrogen bomb. New centers of power are emerging.

Despite the new challenges, the new forces, the strong voices of dissent and criticism, the cynicism, the cries for abolishing the U.N., this great world peace organization has a record of major accomplishments.

The United Nations has made rapid strides in the fields of health, agriculture, education and other activities related to economic and social development.

International protection is provided for more than a million refugees..

They are provided food, shelter, medical care, education.

More than 500 U.N. programs benefit children by helping developing countries fight disease, hunger, malnutrition, ignorance and the break-down of family life.

Millions of children are prevented from getting malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy. Millions more are cured.

Through applied nutrition programs in 70 countries, the U.N. helps governments increase local production of eggs, fish, vegetables. ... 44 countries are assisted in the training of primary school teachers.

Children caught in shanty towns and big-city slums are aided by the U.N support of day-care centers, community and health clubs.

Secretary General U Thant describes the U.N.'s world-wide work as "the foundation upon which new concepts of human welfare and solidarity are being developed."....This is one of the reasons why 1965 is designated by the General Assembly as International Co-Operation Year.

Although the U.N. is strengthening its activities in the areas of economic and social welfare, it faces other tasks of awesome proportions.



With a fullscale war in Viet Nam, trouble brewing in many places, and unrest surging through the target nations of Communism, the U.N. has a greater role and responsibility than ever.

It seems to me the U.N. charter, created in a less troublesome time, should be re-examined with the thought of more effeicient ~~making~~ ways to cope with the modern problems of a more modern world.

If we fail, we could be witness to oblivion.

Somehow, some way, we must insist that the member nations conduct themselves within the rules and regulations of the United Nations.

The U.N. must have sufficient, but limited, powers to prevent aggression by those who would rule the world with iron fists.

Great power and great danger go hand-in-hand. A mistake, a lapse in judgment, an instant of madness could plunge the nations of the world into one final war.



As we near October 24th, United Nations Day, we pay tribute to those who worked with dedication to set the goals of the organization.

The U.N. reasons for existence are clearly stated in the Preamble to the Charter. The goals are:... "to reaffirm faith in the fundamental human rights to promote social progress... to unite our strength and to maintain international peace and security... to save succeeding generations the scourge of war."

On the anniversary of the United States we salute those who wrote those brave words... we salute their vision...and we salute those who have tried in the past 20 years to make these words live.

These were ideas of greatness. They are still ideas of greatness.

We have no higher calling than to pledge ourselves as individuals,  
as citizens of a free nation in the society of other nations, to  
the task of assuring peace in the world.....now and forever.

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