

THE VOICE OF TURTLE BAY

During its four years of operation, the United Nations has continually been handicapped by the lack of co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers. In addition to preventing the conclusion of treaties of peace with Germany and Japan, this lack of co-operation has prevented the Security Council from functioning as the unit primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security as the Charter had anticipated. In addition it has slowed down and, in some respects, obstructed the work of other United Nations units. Because of the flexibility of the organization and procedures, however, the United Nations and the specialized agencies have been able to achieve important results in economic and social co-operation, the improvement of backward areas and notable successes in the political field.

Membership of the U. N. was increased during 1949 to 59 by the admission of Israel, and new applications were received from the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Nepal and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). Favorable action on Nepal and South Korea was blocked by the veto of the Soviet Union. Nine other countries had previously been refused membership upon the negative vote of the Soviet Union.

The unhappy relationship between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers was particularly apparent when consideration was being given to the international control of atomic energy and the regulation of conventional armament.

The Korean situation remained substantially unimproved throughout 1949. The U. N. Commission on Korea established two sub-committees, one to contact North Korea and the other to consult with the government of South Korea. Another sub-committee was established to check on the withdrawal of the remaining United States occupation forces. The Commission then asked the Soviet Union to allow a check on the removal of Soviet troops from Northern Korea. No answer was received either from the government of Northern Korea or from the Soviet Union in response to the request to facilitate unification between north and south as to observe the withdrawal of troops.

The Commission's report set forth five conclusions: (1) that propaganda and hostile activity between the two parts of Korea made unification remote; (2) that opposition of the Soviet Union to the commission and its objectives made a substantial degree of unification impossible; (3) that the differences between the Soviet Union and the United States remained one of the underlying factors in preventing unification; (4) that the

Korean government should be allowed a broader political base; and (5) that the situation in Korea had not improved and that the commission had been unable to facilitate reaching the objective of the general assembly. The general assembly voted to continue the U. N. Commission of Korea, rejecting a proposal by the Soviet Union to terminate the commission.

The foregoing shows that the Soviet Union has had little regard for the United Nations and has continually shown contempt and failure to cooperate with Western Powers. Her failure to abide by the decisions of the U. N. definitely shows that the Soviet Union anticipated war in Korea. The failure of the U. N. to cope with the Soviet Union's actions is one of the few weaknesses of the organization, and is the weakness which has brought fear and unrest to European and Asiatic countries. Yet, despite this weakness the United Nations is our only hope for peace.

The most insistent sound in the world today comes not from the halls of government, not from the meeting rooms of diplomats, but from the hearts of people of all the world. This sound is a swelling voice asking, urging, demanding that we do not abandon the United Nations—the Voice of Turtle Bay—but strengthen it and make it the instrument by which nations may live together in peace and march together toward a better and safer future.

The attainment of lasting peace is, of course, the predominant goal of the U. N. This goal is still far beyond the horizon. Far beyond the horizon, but not hopeless. No one can be sure whether or not the U. N. will achieve its goal. But it is our only hope today, and as such deserves the fervent support of us all. While it has not yet succeeded in this field where all else has failed, it has brought to many other fields great accomplishments of united actions.

Let not the negative votes of the Soviet Union, with all their drama and headlines blind us to the good that the U. N. has brought to the world and to the desirability of keeping the organization intact. We citizens of the United States should be particularly proud of the U. N.—we showed the way in the principal of unity. We led the world in bringing together people of different interests and different places for the good of all. We brought to practical realization the idea, "In unity there is strength", and we have fought for it. Let us now lead the way in the principal, "In unity there is strength—in United Nations there is hope!"

We must support the United Nations—today's only hope for peace.