

Hammerskjold Explains U. N. Purposes

United Nations Day is October 24, the anniversary of the signing of the charter. It is a day of re-dedication throughout the world to the following words of the preamble: "And for these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors."

As each day goes by we can feel the increasing importance of the role played by the United Nations. Through a better understanding of the U. N., its objectives and structure, we can better understand the positions which they take and the role which they play in the maelstrom of world politics today.

Dag Hammerskjold, Secretary-General of the U. N. answers some the malestrom of world politics purpose and function of the United Nations.

Critics of the U. N. say that the U. N. cannot keep the peace; that whenever there is a crisis, it must be resolved elsewhere. Do you agree?

Let us first be clear about what the United Nations is. The United Nations is not in any respect a superstate, able to act outside the framework of decisions by its member governments. It is an instrument for negotiation among, and to some extent, for governments. It is also an instrument for concerting action by governments in support of the Charter. Thus the United Nations can serve, but not substitute itself for, the efforts of its member governments to stop wars, and to prevent them.

Understood in this way, I believe a review of the record will show that the United Nations has played a major role in most of the efforts to keep the peace and resolve the

crises that have occurred in international life since it was established.

In general, I believe that the United Nations, if properly used, has proved itself to be the best instrument available to the member governments for the peaceful resolution of those international conflicts which are not solvable by more traditional means of diplomacy.

Are you hopeful that world peace will be eventually achieved?

I believe it is possible to develop a peaceful world order in which war is effectively outlawed. The U. N. as it is today represents the beginning of such a development. Of course, there is the ever-present danger of slipping backward again. And even if we succeed in building well during the next decades on the modest advances so far made in the institutions, laws, and customs needed to maintain world peace, each succeeding generation will doubtless be called upon to preserve, strengthen and perhaps renew the structure to meet new challenges. This is as true in international life as it is in national life.

What steps in your opinion are the most vital in bringing about such a peace?

One important step is to maintain and strengthen support for the United Nations, with full understanding both of its limitations and at the present time. In a divided of the purposes it can best serve world the U. N. cannot be a policeman enforcing the law upon nations great and small. But because its world-wide membership transcends regional interests and meets on the common ground of the Charter, the U. N. can serve a policy of reconciliation.

The unremitting pursuits of ef-

forts to achieve the peaceful resolution of conflicts that threaten peace is the greatest need today. Despite the inevitable setbacks and disappointments, the diplomatic processes of the United Nations tend to wear away differences and to bring us in the long run to solutions in the common interest.

The critics say that the small powers carry too much weight in the Assembly. Do you agree?

Some critics say this. There are others, especially in the less powerful countries, who say that the great powers exert too much weight in the General Assembly. Both criticisms, I think, tend to exaggerate the problem. No system of weighted voting, based either on power or population, seems politically conceivable at this time.

The charge is made that the U. N. is too much of a propaganda forum. What is your answer to that?

One of the functions of the United Nations is to serve as a forum where nations in all parts of the world may be freely expressed. Surely this is a useful function and an extension of democratic ideals to the society of nations. To attempt to use the United Nations for mere propaganda advantage and voting victories is to divert the organization from its main purposes—the winning of consent to the peaceful and just settlement of questions in dispute and the winning of agreement to programs of action that will support the purposes of the Charter.

If there were no U. N., what would, in your opinion, be the state of the world today?

The world would be in a state where everybody would agree that such an organization had to be created!

Rachele Facio Comments On U. S. Life, Boys, Churches

Salem's newest foreign student is Signorina Rachele Facio, who comes from Catania, Sicily. This 5' 1" blond, 20-year-old girl is a dentist's daughter. She has one brother, fourteen years old. Rachele plans to be a teacher in Sicily some day.

She arrived at Salem to take up her studies just as the American novel class was wading through *Moby Dick*. Poor Rachele was initiated into Salem's classes in a whirl of whales, whaling ships, harpoons, and blubber. Her other courses include English literature, American history, and psychology. This is Rachele's third year of college—she has attended the University of Catania.

Rachele feels that American girls are kinder and more natural than Italian girls, who (she says) are always thinking of boys—they can't do without them for a minute! But Italian girls always wear heels to class, whether they go to a girls' school or not.

In Italy, one never single-dates—things are always done in large groups of boys and girls. Dating one person frequently is frowned upon, and likely to ruin a girl's reputation quickly. When a girl and boy become engaged, the other young people all know about it, but the parents are always kept in the dark. The boys cannot marry until they are around 28 or 29 years old and have saved up enough money

(this is difficult to do because nobody in Italy likes to work at all). Engagements are announced when the couple is finally ready to get married.

Rachele went to her first football game last weekend. She thinks American boys are very kind—they are always opening doors for the girls. However, she thinks Italian boys are more exciting!

One contact Rachele had with Americans before this fall was during World War II. When the war was over, her father, who had been a dentist in the Italian Army, became friends with American soldiers in Sicily. Food was scarce, and Rachele remembers getting cheese and candy from the American soldiers: this was the first time she had ever had any chocolate.

She commented that churches in America are very different from those she is used to at home. Our churches are like movie theaters in their arrangement, she says, and they do not have paintings and sculpture as do the Italian churches. Rachele is interested in art, being an artist herself. She likes to draw, paint, and do oil portraits.

Rachele thinks life at Salem is well-organized, and the girls have a good sense of responsibility. She thinks the rules are good and give us a lot of individual freedom. At this point, we concluded the interview as Rachele had to get back to reading "*Huckleberry Finn*".

Jane Leighton Bailey

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