

REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

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A UNITED NATIONS ANNIVERSARY

On June 26, it was ten years since the United Nations Charter was signed at San Francisco. On United Nations Day, October 24, the charter will have been in force for ten years--a most remarkable decade.

The diplomats who signed the Charter on June 26, 1945 were realistic tough-minded men who knew it was only a beginning. They knew that a stroke of the pen does not eliminate the fears, the tensions, and the miseries that lead to war. They knew that a great deal is possible of achievement only when men try with unflagging determination.

Now that ten years have elapsed and the anniversary has been commemorated by special meetings of the United Nations General Assembly held in San Francisco June 20-26, when we look upon the organization's brief but active life, what do we see? Although the UN has not achieved all that it was hoped it would, it has nevertheless, a notable record of achievement. These very few years have seen UN agreements on agriculture, health, finance, trade, help for refugees and children, control of narcotics and drugs, to mention only a few. It would be unrealistic to say that the UN has solved all our problems. We know that there is still basic disagreement on atomic control and disarmament. But it is realistic to say that the UN has given us a decent chance for peace--has given millions of others a decent chance for a better life now and in the future.

Whether we lean to an optimistic or a pessimistic view of the UN, we must not make unreasonable demands of it. The UN is not God--it should not be expected to accomplish a regeneration of human motivation. Any social or political institution is simply a channel through which the people involved pool their aspirations and discuss their interests. The continuation of international and economic rivalries, and the resulting tensions, are not to be blamed to the UN.

Too often we have assumed that a nation's prosperity must somehow come at the expense of other nations. The past ten years have given us some reason for hope--the UN has been instrumental in arranging more international cooperation than has been customary among nations in the past.

Most of us in the United States are not too familiar with the work of the ten agencies under the Economic and Social Council, for we do not need their assistance. Among these is the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which carries on active programs in some 50 countries around the world, introducing modern agricultural methods, better seeds, better fertilizers. Many and diverse accomplishments could be mentioned, such as the

improvement in the diet of the Ceylonese people resulting from increased catches by fishermen whose boats were equipped with motors for the first time; and the finding of 50 new wells in thirsty Iran during a 51-day stay by a team of experts using light aircraft.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) during the year 1954 alone helped organize health programs through which 400,000,000 children in 88 countries were examined, 14,000,000 vaccinated against tuberculosis, 9,000,000 treated for malaria and typhus. The World Health Organization (WHO) expects to wipe out malaria in Afghanistan this year. In Haiti, WHO has helped the government eliminate yaws; as recently as 1950, one-third of the population was affected by this disease.

In just one of the several areas in which the UN Refugee Agencies are at work, they provide a basic ration for 887,000 Arab refugees.

Many other specific examples could be given of the results achieved through voluntary cooperation between nations. Mrs. Oscar W. Hahn, the United States representative on the Status of Women Commission of the UN, just back from a four-month tour of Asia and Africa, in speaking of the participation of many nations in these programs is quoted as saying: "It is interesting that in many instances this is the first time such countries have moved into the background regions to help and not to take--to try to develop an understanding between people, rather than nations. And, what's more, many of these people in Asia and Africa recognize it, despite Communist propaganda to the contrary."

A realistic appraisal of the tensions which remain will hinge on trade opportunities and national advantages to a much larger degree than the public is aware. When national economic interests find expression in adamant foreign policies, backed in turn by the nations' military powers, the failure to relax international tension is a failure of the populations involved rather than a failure of the organization set up for international conversations.

When we pray for the UN let us also pray for ourselves and for the people of the other nations.

On October 24, the American nation will observe UN Day. Would it not be of help to our people if the Baptist press and the Baptist pulpits at that time shared some information regarding the objectives, the achievements, and the problems of the UN? Kits of information are available by writing The United States Committee for the United Nations, 816 21st Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

CULTIVATING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

While thousands of Baptists from the United States are enjoying and having their lives enriched in a world-wide Baptist fellowship in London, the United States Congress has been trying to resolve differences of viewpoint on the Student Exchange Program.

This year President Eisenhower asked Congress for \$22,000,000 for the international educational program. The House of Representatives cut the request almost in half, to \$12,000,000. The Senate restored the amount cut in the House; the differences remained to be ironed out in conference.

If the cuts made by the House were to be sustained, it would mean that the program would be eliminated in 31 countries for next year. It would end

in all of Africa except Egypt. It would end in Sweden, Peru, Hong Kong, and be much curtailed in Germany, Finland, Australia. Programs which had been planned for Korea, Formosa, and Israel would be eliminated.

Neal Stanford, writing in the Christian Science Monitor for May 13, 1955, said: "There will be no more leaders and specialists from Turkey, Paraguay, Australia visiting the United States. There will be no more visiting teachers from Laos, Haiti, Afghanistan, and a dozen other countries. There will be no foreign students financed from the Gold Coast, Iraq, Spain."

Mr. Stanford added: "This economy will cut in half America's educational exchange program at the very time that the Soviet Union is doubling its exchange program in satellite and neutralist countries.

"It is in the Far East, Asia, and the Middle East that the Soviets are concentrating their drive for converts. In some of the countries in this vital area President Eisenhower asked Congress to increase educational exchanges 50 per cent. The House replied by cutting his request 50 per cent. No one can say for sure what the Soviets are spending around the world in their Communist educational exchange program. But every informed guess puts it at ten times or more the size of America's program."

Last year the administration requested \$15,000,000 for the educational exchange program. Then, too, the House cut the proposed amount drastically, but the cut was restored in the Senate. The conference committee settled upon the amount of \$14,700,000.

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There are two disturbing aspects of this topic. First, while the economy argument is the one most frequently used against the Exchange Program, its validity is not convincing when one looks at the total budget of our government. The budget as proposed by the President for fiscal 1956 totaled \$62,400,000,000. More than half of this amount, \$34,000,000,000, was requested for the Defense Department alone. By comparison, \$22,000,000 for the international education program is but a drop-in-the-bucket. In terms that more of us can comprehend, it was proposed that for each \$100 of our tax money spent on defense, we spend 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % to promote international understanding through exchange of persons.

When we reflect that the entire amount proposed for the operation of the educational exchange program for a year, involving several hundred students from all parts of the world, is less than the cost of three B-52 jet bombers, we raise a question as to where we are placing our confidence. There is no measuring-stick adequate for determining the difference in international good-will which would be generated by these two expenditures.

Resistance to the educational exchange program seems to spring from a strange kind of patriotism current in some areas, which says essentially that the more unympathetic and the less informed the American public is of other peoples and other nations the better Americans they will be. This is a new concept of a "good American." We sincerely hope that public opinion will continue to withstand effectively the nationalistic bigotry that could easily, under the guise of super-patriotism, ruin not only our nation but others as well.

A second disturbing situation is brought to light when one studies the students who are now coming under the Fulbright Program. This office obtained a list of "Visiting Fulbright Scholars in the United States, Academic Year 1954-55" from the Committee on International Exchange of Persons.

A survey of the fields of study revealed that of the 475 students listed 303 were working in the physical and biological sciences. Sixty-five are working in the humanities, thirty-four are students of professional education. In the social, economic, and political areas the following are listed:

Anthropology	3	Law	9
Business Administration	1	Political Science	3
Economics and Labor		Social Work	6
Relations	17	Sociology	6
History	20		<u>65</u>

Apparently foreign students are interested in our chemistry, our engineering, our physics, our medicine, our microbiology and biochemistry, but not in our political science, our economics, or our social work.

In the 19th century American political and social institutions which produced freedom were the marvels of the world. Scores of European travelers came to see, to wonder, and to write. Millions of Europeans came to experience and be blessed by the new ways of freedom. They proved their enthusiasm by choosing to live under American institutions. Just a few decades ago the Asiatics were coming by the scores to learn government in America, but we have lost our charm.

Something seems to have happened. Somehow we seem to have given up our world leadership in regard to the sciences of human relationship, unless perchance these sciences have become universally obscured by the sciences which deal with man's power over the material universe. It would be interesting to know how many are studying these various subjects in Sweden, in Russia, and elsewhere.

THE WEST POINT CHAPLAINCY

The Protestant Episcopal control of the West Point chaplaincy has come up for review in connection with a bill now in the Senate. Senators Richard B. Russell of Georgia and Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts have introduced a bill to raise the salary of the chaplain at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, and to provide for an assistant chaplain. This measure was introduced at the request of Army Secretary Robert T. Stevens, but there are indications that Congress will make a thorough review of the West Point chaplaincy situation before taking any action on it.

In 1896 Congress passed legislation stipulating that spiritual services at the academy were to be provided by a civilian rather than a military chaplain. Prior to that, and up to the present time, it has been customary to assign only Protestant Episcopal clergymen to the post. Attendance at the cadet chapel is compulsory, but it has been the practice to excuse Catholic and Jewish cadets from the Sunday services. Two civilian priests, assigned by the Archdiocese of New York, take care of the spiritual needs of the Catholic cadets.

Several Protestant groups have forwarded resolutions to Congress requesting that a change be made in the spiritual ministry at West Point, to bring it under the Army Chaplains Corps. Chaplains serve all other army posts and organizations. At the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, two chaplains are assigned from the ranks of regular Navy chaplains and a similar policy is planned for the new Air Force Academy in Colorado.