

From the Office of
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UN SECURITY COUNCIL URGED AS FORUM FOR NEW DISARMAMENT EFFORTS

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) today urged the United States to turn to the United Nations' Security Council as the "logical forum" for resuming disarmament efforts.

"The United Nations Security Council is the logical channel for our next effort to resume talks with the Soviet Union on disarmament and other outstanding issues," Senator Humphrey declared in an address before the Central Wisconsin Teachers Association at Wausaw, Wisconsin.

"For many years the Security Council has been crippled by indiscriminate use of the veto, but it is, nevertheless, the body which has, under the United Nations Charter, been formally charged with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. I think that in the current crisis of international peace and security we should resort to the Security Council and utilize its machinery to the greatest possible extent. If obstructionism or the veto should block effective Council action, then--but only then--we should carry our negotiations to other channels.

"In preparing for negotiations with the Soviet Union on disarmament and other issues of the 'cold war' the United States is consulting on policy with the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The issues involved, however, are much broader than NATO -- they affect the interests of the entire world. The 'cold war' is not a private squabble between Moscow and the NATO powers, but a state of tension that affects the lives and fate of people on every continent of the globe. In Asia, Africa, and Latin American nations are watching with deep concern the progress of the exchange between the major Atlantic powers and the Kremlin because they know that their own future depends on the outcome.

"Yet, despite the interest and concern of the governments and peoples of nations all around the globe, we have been treating most of them as mere bystanders. It would be to our interest to associate these countries more closely with the policies and the decisions that in the last analysis profoundly affect all of them.

"The place for disarmament negotiations is the United Nations," Senator Humphrey declared. The United Nations, as the instrumentality of formal political cooperation established by practically all the nations of the world, is the proper channel through which policy coordination should be achieved. The General Assembly, with some eighty members, is too cumbersome an agency for this purpose. But the Security Council, containing as it does countries from nearly every major region of the world officially chosen by the entire membership of the General Assembly, could offer a means of broad representative negotiation and consultation.

"But wherever we negotiate, we should consult with all those members of the Security Council that desire to do so. We cannot consult with every country in the world--this would be an endless and futile process. But we can get together with those countries which have been chosen by all the members of the General Assembly--the 'town meeting of the world' as their official representatives, so to speak, on peace and security matters. We would thus show our regard for the views and interests of nations throughout the world and not just those who have chosen to ally themselves militarily with us in the North Atlantic region. Our own policies would be immensely strengthened by recognizing the broad interests of nations everywhere in the great issues of peace and war, and we would derive much profit from this demonstration of our respect for world opinion."

(OVER)

Reviewing the United Nations role today, Senator Humphrey went on to say that "there is a need for a general, ever-open forum in which to discuss the problems of the world, to supplement the normal, separate, compartmental contracts of traditional diplomacy. It is of tremendous value to the diplomat and to the policy maker in the field of foreign affairs to have this supplementary, complementary mechanism. As has been often said, if the United Nations did not exist we would have to create it. But fortunately the United Nations does not only exist, but it works. Time and again, our country and our allies have been able to use it to advantage as one of the essential tools of modern diplomacy.

"Admittedly, the United Nations has its limitations, and we must remain alert to correct them," the Senator stated. However, I am convinced that despite its shortcomings, the U. N. provides the best international forum yet devised in which nations in time of crisis can air their grievances and achieve solutions to international disputes through discussions, debate, and compromise."

Further excerpts from Senator Humphrey's remarks follow:

"It was my privilege to serve as a member of the United States delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations during the 11th General Assembly which adjourned in March, 1957. During this period world peace hung in the balance--the result of the crises in Egypt and Hungary. These twin crises dominated the 11th General Assembly, and we have not yet heard the last of them.

"The contrast between the crises in the Middle East and Hungary is striking. In the Middle East, the United Nations achieved a cessation of hostilities because the parties involved were willing to comply with the recommendations of the United Nations. In Hungary, the United Nations was frustrated because the Soviet Union arrogantly flouted its will.

"The Middle East crisis led to one of those momentous steps which may in the future come to be seen as a turning point of history. I refer, of course, to the establishment of the United Nations emergency force which is continuing to do an outstanding job in keeping the peace in that troubled area. It is a tribute to UNEF that we have not for a long time read anything in our newspapers about the trouble in the Sharm-el-Sheik or Gaza areas.

"I regret, however, that more progress has not been made toward establishing a force of similar character as a permanent arm of the United Nations. It will be recalled that such action was recommended in a resolution which was agreed to by the Senate in August of last year. I was glad to join Senator Sparkman in sponsoring this forward-looking resolution and I hope that in the coming year concrete steps will be taken to implement it.

"Egypt and Hungary, however, are only two examples of the value of the United Nations to the free world. There are other examples which are less spectacular, but which none the less are vital. Through the United Nations progress was made in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy; constructive gains were made toward self-government and independence in the dependent and trust territories of the world; technical-assistance programs provide underdeveloped countries with a pool of skilled and professional personnel. During 1957, the United Nations for the first time devoted itself, although briefly, to the problem of outer space. It is significant that in the disarmament resolution of November 14, 1957, the General Assembly called for agreement on an inspection system to insure that the sending of objects through outer space would be exclusively for peaceful and scientific purposes.

"We must, of course, prepare the way for negotiations by improving the international climate. Private U. S. citizens can play a major role in this area. We cannot, for instance, overstress the importance for school teachers to be well informed in U. N. operations so that they can better inform and teach the future citizens whose lives will be so affected by the developments of the present. Teachers should lead in our people-to-people exchange program.

"Individual and group voluntary efforts to help meet today's total challenge from the Kremlin should be encouraged on every front.

~~Excerpt~~
~~Speech By~~
Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
at
Central Wisconsin Teachers Association
Wausau, Wisconsin
Friday, March 7, 1958

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disarmament and other issues of the "cold war" the United States is consulting on policy with the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The issues involved, however, are much broader than NATO - they affect the interests of the entire world. The "cold war" is not a private squabble between Moscow and the NATO powers, but a state of tension that affects the lives and fate of people on every continent of the globe. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America nations are watching with deep concern the progress of the exchanges between the major Atlantic powers and the Kremlin because they know that their own future depends on the outcome.

Yet, despite the interest and concern of the governments and peoples of nations all around the globe, we have been treating most of them as mere bystanders. It would be to our interest to associate these countries more closely with the policies and the decisions that in the last analysis profoundly affect all of them.

Here again the U.N. helped.

The place for disarmament negotiations is the United Nations. The United Nations, as the instrumentality of formal political cooperation established by practically all the nations of the world, is the proper channel through which policy coordination should be achieved. The General Assembly, with some eighty members, is too cumbersome an agency for this purpose. But the Security Council, containing as it does countries from nearly every major region of the world officially chosen by the entire membership of the General Assembly, could offer a means of broad representative negotiation and consultation.

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General Assembly - the "town meeting of the world" as their official representatives, so to speak, on peace and security matters. We would thus show our regard for the views and interests of nations throughout the world and not just those who have chosen to ally themselves militarily with us in the North Atlantic region. Our own policies would be immensely strengthened by recognizing the broad interests of nations everywhere in the great issues of peace and war and we would derive much profit from this demonstration of our respect for world opinion.

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Permanent UN Police Force
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