

"The United Nations—

Its Ideals and Activities"

before the Indian Council

World Affairs

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Address

FEBRUARY 2, 1956 NEW DELHI INDIA FEBRUARY 2, 1956

anly extemporaneous address Hammarskiöld U. N. is thus remarkable

turned to words from S. Paul—faith, hope and charity—to define the de

a ogy of the United Nations to his Indian audience, and concluded with in
fl The text given below is the verbatim transcript as edited and corrected
tl from Tagore to express the spirit in which the venture should be pursued
c the Secretary-General.

v Mr. President, distinguished audience, may I first of all thank you

ress this audience and your
se, coming here now to India
occasion to establish a contact
aps, of spirit. This opportunity
e one indeed.

v your much appreciated invitation
c Council. I appreciate it especially
l for the second time, I longed to ha
e —a contact of mind, and I may ad
f which you have given me is a very v

and the best of those I had planned to write an address where every

and the Secretary-General will understand

and the Secretary-General will understand

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to these questions frankly, simply, and in very personal terms, speaking without my official title or speaking as a human being who is engaged, and deeply engaged, in this venture.

It is not a question of a different direction. I would not like to make this appraisal in terms of second-hand ideas or from the more practical, operational angle.

Ideology. The word is a little dangerous, especially when we come to a body now composed of seventy-six Member States, representing all shades of ideas, philosophies, and religions. But all the same,

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... it is not in a spirit of acquiescence, but in a spirit of trust—I would
... add in a spirit of trust and humility—in the face of destiny. With re-
... symbol of faith that may in this respect
... e said that to very many it stands as a symbol of faith and ability. It stands as a sym-
... of his own destiny and from his own destiny so as to cre-

international conferences repeated at regular inter- daily. And we
nics have in the past. But several of the over that above that, un- The
as a supplement to, but as an essential part of the system, ne
may tackle their through which modern society and the peoples
re the United Nations. Through the United Nations problems
y-achieve as a through the national organizations, regi- machin
multilateral negotiation has been made as a new tool for posit-
new instrument for governments, a new technique of diplomacy
continue to be confirmed the I think from the ten years that
me/United Nations. It is a fact that the problems of the world
they would have to be played by such multilateral negotiation, v
ings to bear the influence of other inter- world a major role in
est companies as well as most administrative agencies in a quite w
presence, and with a simple, happy, emotionless, and more detai
points. Finally, I ha
in this attempt to describe an ideology that the

adminis-
mean
cal Assis-
s, all the

and an organ which provides the technical instruments
of such sharing. (As regards the technical instru-

not only the United Nations with its Secretariat and T
echnice Administration but just as much the specialized a

members of the United Nations family, be the World Health
Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) or any of
the other agencies, omitting none.)

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Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) or any of
the other agencies, omitting none.)

as one as a
an in any
because this is often forgotten. Previously, in the way of foreign policy

framework for sharing, for charity in the sense referred
to which I would like to draw attention, not because
of this is often forgotten. Previously, in the way of foreign policy

its multilateral form and sharing in its bilateral form.

have been referred to in the
diplomacy

ough.
ach represents something essential, something
we are really to do what we have to do. And I

we have the two-sided programmes of direct agreements
between countries, classical economic responsibilities
development. These programmes and agreements
good, but they are
The multilateral
which has to be

that and they may be led into temptation and even fall not
 they can not be a protection in the debate use of Jew
 and notes toward savills and an extreme in man and

show that might, in some cases, has been stronger than right. In order to make it possible for the General Assembly to serve in this way for

science in the cases where such an appeal is made.

the democratic parliamentary procedure to

d; that is to say, an equal right to the floor

influence on the decisions of everybody in

there have been discussions about this or

. It is one of those ideas which have come

vision of the Charter. I think that we would

l if we were to abandon the present system.

ay for weighted voting when we are ripe to

the world government.

the weight should be the weight in the demo-

cratic sense of a world government.

se inter-

sovereign national states.

national cooperation on the representative

of the fact that each state has the democratic principle.

er countries to express their views as an

stronger countries. There is an exception to

n however, as you know, does

only to the Security Council

importance of the Security Council.

alorments during the tenth session of the General

all I think that those of us who followed the develop-

l noted that in two cases—the most important

he smaller countries were decisive and, more

lership of the smaller countries was decisive.

against misunderstanding. For the sake of con-

with I hope nobody mis-

which I have already re
for everybody and an e
the technical sense of v

As you know, some
that kind of weighted v
up in discussions about
lose something very ess

world govern-
the demo-
for what

But as long as v
national cooperation on the representat
of the democratic principle.

no in the equal right of each Mem
equal right for the
the views of supp

which I shall revert—the veto role,
ncc apply to the General Assembly

The weight an
the but de

I am fir
ments during that
I think—the votes
than that, that the

(Again I must v

tudes which at the very beginning may be far apart, become, to a certain extent, frozen. I feel that in order to make the operations of the Se-

ance that can be given through international cooperation in the development towards self-determination of peoples so far dependent on others. Here again we have a Council which can lay the basis for a line of development which is the kind of path which I think that the other two Councils, and I hope that here again we may all look back at a good record in terms of results. We are looking forward to the next two years, I think that we will see the emergence of new national States which I hope will quickly take their places at the table of the United Nations as Members, thus coming into their own not only as independent States, but also as independent States with access to the forum of the world which the United Nations represents. self-determination which dominates this part of the The problem of

but it never competes with the service organization here. It is a
 would try to test any country. Secretary-General never tries and never
 ally, I am firmly against any Government, what it should do. P
 ments from the Secretary-General. Kind of attempt at policy-making through s
 not uncollected, mix into international affairs in the sense of volunteering as
 matter. But something of that kind if it is called upon, that is an
 down in the Charter.

What is the function of the Secretary-General?
 if it is not to compete with the activities of governments, it
 give guidance in a public sense and not to serve as a mediator.
 I might put the reply in this way: Its function is to find a
 common denominator, whatever may be the common denominator
 that there is no doubt about the unanimity. too difficult, because
 As to keeping it alive, very much can be done in that respect, and very much is done in direct
 public relations as well. As to broadening it, there we
 really a crucial point—that is, to work not as a mediator
 but that you daily and constantly increase the
 point of view, increase the understanding on the extent to which
 policy of the other side.

It is an activity which is very much needed, and I feel that it is highly
 challenging and that its results are rather encouraging. If we translate
 what has just been said into terms of practical action, the Secretary-General
 constantly has to analyse positions and problems, when asked to
 it has to give the results of its analysis in terms of advice, and it

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of the traditional machinery of international relations. In the traditional machinery of international relations, the International Court of Justice and the International Law Commission— I have only one thing to mention also the International Law Commission— have been re- garded as the central machinery of international relations. After the Second World War, the central significance of international

cooperation between the Organization and the United Nations. Forward to strengthen the active, expanding, dynamic peoples of Asia.

...dances in the... A couple of days ago, in Bangalore, I saw some... on a poem by Rabindranath Tagore, and, in thanking our hosts, I felt that it was appropriate to quote a few lines of the poem which was represented in the... These are the lines:

Listen to the rumbling of the clouds, oh heart of mine.
Be brave, break through and leave for the unknown assignation.

I think that these lines, which—at least to me, as a European—seem to be of deep trends of thought in this people, express in a very noble attitude we must take to this venture which is the United Nations. We may listen to the rumbling of the clouds, but we can never afford to lose that kind of confidence in ourselves and in the wisdom of man which makes us brave enough to break through and leave—always leave—for the unknown assignation.