

Files of the S-G: U Thant: Speeches, Messages, Statements, Addresses 22/05/1970-27/05/1970
Conference of NGOs listed with Office of Public Information, 26 May 1970

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

Clear

02/03/2004 wq

UN ARCHIVES
SERIES 0885
BOX 1
FILE 46
ACC. DAH 1/5.27



S-0885-0001-46-00001

Expanded Number **S-0885-0001-46-00001**

Title **Items-in-Conference of NGOs listed with Office of Public Information, 26 May 1970**

Date Created **22/05/1970**

Record Type **Archival Item**

Container **S-0885-0001: Operational Files of the Secretary-General: U Thant: Speeches, Messages, Statements, and Addresses - not issued as press releases**

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit

TO:

A:

Secretary General

FOR ACTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	POUR SIGNATURE
PREPARE DRAFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	PROJET A REDIGER
FOR COMMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE CONFER?	<input type="checkbox"/>	POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND FILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOTER ET CLASSER
NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	POUR INFORMATION

Seen. Thanks.
Dhar
23/6/70

Date:

15/6/70

CR.13 (11-64)

FROM:

DE:

aashan

ANNUAL OPI/NGO CONFERENCE

26 -27 May 1970

This year's Annual NGO Conference was successful in stimulating a thoughtful and timely examination by NGO participants of their "Goals and Commitments for the '70s" in relation to the United Nations.

There was a large attendance, some 316 representatives from 143 organizations, 57 of them international, participating. A number of younger participants attended for the first time, since NGOs had been invited to include a younger person among their representatives this year in view of the special emphasis on youth during the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. Most of these younger representatives were articulate and well informed and made a constructive and realistic contribution to the discussion in workshop sessions.

Secretary-General's address

While the focus was on development, disarmament and the elimination of racial discrimination, the Secretary-General, in his address, put the whole Conference in perspective when he reminded the audience that "our main pre-occupation this year should be to devise ways and means of averting war, ending war, and creating conditions for peace and progress and justice. Without this precondition, "he declared, "our goals and our commitments will be just illusory."

The Secretary-General emphasized that if we are to achieve our goals and commitments, the essential prerequisite is to strengthen the United Nations. The United Nations, he said, and, for that matter, the international community cannot progress, or even survive, without enforceable world laws, world police and world courts for the maintenance of international peace and justice.

Speaking in concrete terms, the Secretary-General declared that decisions, particularly of the Security Council, when they are adopted unanimously, must be enforceable. He urged Member States to redouble their efforts to come to an agreement so that the United Nations could have at its beck and call a stand-by peace force. And he called for the acceptance by all Member States without exception of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in all international legal disputes.

..../

The Secretary-General reminded the NGOs that if we are to approach the United Nations with proper perspectives, it is imperative in these tense times to develop, besides our primary allegiance to our own State, a second allegiance to the international community.

The Secretary-General's address made a strong impact on the audience and was frequently cited during the informal discussions in workshop sessions.

Mobilization of Public Opinion

All of the Secretariat speakers made vigorous and imaginative addresses, which provided valuable ideas and guidance for the NGO workshops.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Mr. Agha Abdul Hamid, declared that the apathy of States towards their commitments under the Charter has to be brought to an end. States owe it to their people, he said, and particularly to the young generation which is rebelling against what Governments have failed to do, to see that the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations are followed and respected.

In this respect, Mr. Hamid continued, the mobilization of national and international opinion will play an important role. In the final analysis, he pointed out, no government can remain unresponsive to its public opinion. It is for each of us to convince others that the future of mankind depends on international co-operation. It has been said many times, he recalled, that the United Nations is necessary and indispensable above all for the economically and militarily weak, for those who see no prospect for their own development, prosperity and security without collective action by the international community. This, however, is only partly true, Mr. Hamid noted. The whole truth is that the United Nations is indispensable for all countries if humanity is to survive.

Second Development Decade

The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Philippe de Seynes, outlined the global strategy for the Second Development Decade. He referred to the important contributions NGOs have to make to the goals of development and said that the United Nations intended to work more closely with NGOs during the Second Development Decade. Only now, he said, were we beginning to see what had been achieved during the First Decade, which had paved the way

.... /

for the developing countries as a whole to reach the target of an average annual growth rate of 6 per cent in their gross product during the Second Decade.

Mr. de Seynes said that progress would be reviewed during the Decade with the possibility of attaining a higher growth rate in the second half of the Decade.

He pointed out that, while the primary responsibility for the development of the developing countries rests with the developing countries themselves, their individual efforts, however great these may be, will not be enough to achieve the desired development goals unless they are assisted through increased financial resources and more favourable economic and commercial policies on the part of the developed countries. In this connexion, he referred to the difficulties in obtaining agreement among the developed countries on a target date by which each economically advanced country would provide annually to the developing countries financial aid of a minimum net amount of one per cent of its gross national product.

Mr. de Seynes said that increased attention would be given to the social aspects of development during the Second Decade, and he cited such factors as urbanization, effects of pollution and population growth.

In an eloquent presentation, Miss Julia Henderson, Director of the Office of Technical Co-operation, discussed development strategy in the field and described a number of projects which had been undertaken by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies as examples of the multilateral contribution to development. She mentioned the desire of many individuals to become involved in the development process and she therefore attached great importance to the Secretary-General's proposal for an international corps of volunteers for development.

Disarmament Decade

The inter-relationship between disarmament, development and the elimination of racial discrimination was pointed out by Mr. William Epstein, Director of the Disarmament Affairs Division in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. After noting that nations spend \$180 billion on armaments a year, Mr. Epstein asked where the money needed to finance economic and social development would come from except as a consequence of disarmament.

..../

He considered there had been limited but significant progress in disarmament in recent years, and he cited a number of developments, including the conclusion of the partial test ban treaty, the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the start of the SALT talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. Mr. Epstein was cautiously optimistic about disarmament prospects in the seventies, but he emphasized that the participation of France and the People's Republic of China was essential in any future disarmament agreements.

In reply to one younger NGO participant who pointed out that it was conventional, not nuclear weapons which were killing people today, Mr. Epstein explained that the ultimate goal was general and complete disarmament, but that the major powers had agreed to tackle the problem of nuclear weapons first as the greater potential threat.

Action to Combat Racial Discrimination

During a panel discussion of action to combat racial discrimination, the programme for the International Year in 1971 was outlined. It was suggested that NGOs might begin by looking around their own organizations for possible reforms on the grounds that charity begins at home. NGOs were urged to give special attention during the International Year to the problems of apartheid and racism in Southern Africa and to demonstrate their sympathy and support for the African peoples in their fight for liberation and freedom.

Address by Ambassador Jakobson

In his closing address, Ambassador Max Jakobson (Finland) took a cautious but optimistic view of the United Nations in the seventies. Part of this optimism was based on his belief that the major powers were now not so prone to use the United Nations as a forum for invective and propaganda but more for private discussion and negotiations. He commented on the steps which might be taken to strengthen the peace-keeping capabilities of the United Nations and drew attention, in particular, to Finland's proposal for convening periodic meetings of the Security Council at the foreign minister level, as provided for in the Charter.

..../

Workshop Sessions

Discussion in the workshop sessions was useful and constructive.

In the workshop on the Second Development Decade, suggestions were made for NGO action to demonstrate support for international development efforts (such as the "Miles for Millions" walks which had been organized in Canada). Such action could help persuade governments to adopt progressive policies towards international development efforts.

In the workshop session on combating racial discrimination, it was emphasized that there was now a great deal of documentation and other material available on human rights. What was needed now was action and 1971 was a fit and proper time to begin. A number of practical suggestions were made for NGO action at the local level. There was a good deal of discussion concerning the situation in Southern Africa, following Mr. Reddy's warning that after 25 years of discussion in the United Nations, the situation there was worse than ever and that in the absence of any progress towards the achievement of justice and liberation, many Africans now saw no alternative to the use of force.

The Conference, nevertheless, closed on a note of optimism and hope. Many NGOs praised the outstanding quality of the speakers and said they had been given new perspectives and encouragement to intensify their efforts and to seek new ways of contributing to the goals of the United Nations in the seventies.

* *** *

TO:

A:

Secretary General

FOR ACTION		POUR SUITE A DONNER
FOR APPROVAL		POUR APPROBATION
FOR SIGNATURE		POUR SIGNATURE
PREPARE DRAFT		PROJET A REDIGER
FOR COMMENTS		POUR OBSERVATIONS
MAY WE CONFER?		POURRIONS-NOUS EN PARLER?
YOUR ATTENTION		VOTRE ATTENTION
AS DISCUSSED		COMME CONVENU
AS REQUESTED		SUITE A VOTRE DEMANDE
NOTE AND FILE		NOTER ET CLASSER
NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
FOR INFORMATION	✓	POUR INFORMATION

Date:

22/5/70

CR. 13 (11-64)

FROM:

DE:

aathamm

Background Note

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

26 and 27 May 1970
Conference Room 4
United Nations Headquarters

Theme of the Conference: "Goals and Commitments for the '70s"

The two-day Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations is arranged by the Office of Public Information in co-operation with the non-governmental organizations listed with OPI.

In view of the special emphasis on youth during the UN's twenty-fifth anniversary, NGOs have been asked to include at least one young person among their participants in this year's NGO Conference.

With reference to the Conference theme, it has been suggested that the Secretary-General might wish to take this opportunity to comment in general terms on the many petitions in support of peace recently addressed to him by NGOs, especially youth NGOs, and on their commitment to peace.

Within the overall theme, the Conference will focus the NGOs' attention on Development, Disarmament and the Elimination of Discrimination - and, in particular, on the goals of the Second Development Decade, the Disarmament Decade and the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1971), and on the commitments which are necessary in order to achieve these goals.

Following the Secretary-General's address, Mr. Philippe de Seynes will speak on the global strategy for the Second Development Decade, and Miss Julia Henderson on the application of that strategy in the field. In the afternoon, working groups of the Conference will discuss how NGOs can promote support for the underlying concepts and goals of the Decade.

On the second day, there will be an address by Mr. William Epstein, on the Disarmament Decade; a panel discussion on action to combat racial discrimination; and a workshop session on how can NGOs give practical support to the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

The closing address will be given by Ambassador Max Jakobson (Finland).

Attached are copies of the provisional agenda and of the Secretary-General's last two addresses to the Annual OPI/NGO Conference.

These Conferences bring together international and national representatives of influential business, industry and trade union organizations, religious and women's groups, professional organizations, youth groups, veterans and service associations. Most of these organizations have either part-time or full-time representatives at UN Headquarters.

* *** *

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations Headquarters

26 and 27 May, 1970

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Theme of the
Conference:

"Goals and Commitments for the '70s"

Tuesday, 26 May

9.30 a.m.

Registration

10.30 a.m.

Opening by Mr. Vladimir P. Pavlichenko, Director,
External Relations Division, OPI

Statement by Miss Alba Zizzamia, Chairman,
NGO Executive Committee

10.45 a.m.

Welcoming address by Mr. Agha Abdul Hamid,
Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information

11.00 a.m.

Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,
U Thant

11.30 a.m.

Goals for the '70s: The Second Development Decade

"Global Strategy for the Decade"

Mr. Philippe de Seynes,

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

12.15 p.m.

"Development Strategy in Action"

Miss Julia Henderson,

Director, Office of Technical Co-operation,

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1.00 p.m.

Lunch period

2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Workshop Session

The Conference will divide into three groups,
meeting in Conference Rooms 4, 5 and 6. All three
working groups will consider the same topics during
the afternoon sessions, but each will have its own
NGO Chairman and Secretariat discussion leader.

Topic I: "How can NGOs promote support for the
underlying concepts and goals of the
Second Development Decade?"

4.45 - 6.00 p.m. Social Hour at the UNA-USA Centre, 345 East 46th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Wednesday, 27 May

- 10.00 a.m. Goals for the '70s: The Decade of Disarmament
- Speaker from the Department of Political and
 Security Council Affairs
- 10.45 a.m. Discussion period
- 11.30 a.m. Goals for the '70s: Action to Combat Racial Discrimina-
 tion
- Panel discussion. The panel will include:
- Professor Alexander Szalai,
 Deputy Director of Research,
 UN Institute for Training and Research
- Mr. E. S. Reddy,
 Chief of Section for African Questions,
 Department of Political and Security Council
 Affairs
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch period
- 2.00 - 3.30 p.m. Workshop Session
- Topic II: "How can NGOs give practical support to
 the International Year for Action to
 Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination"
- 3.30 p.m. Business meeting in Conference Room 4
- 4.00 p.m. A Look Ahead: The United Nations in the '70s
- Address by Ambassador Max Jakobson (Finland),
 President of the UN Security Council for April, 1970
- 4.30 p.m. Closing of Conference by the Director,
 External Relations Division, OPI

* * *

ANNEX II

TEXT OF ADDRESS BY SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT AT ANNUAL

OPI/NGO CONFERENCE, UN HEADQUARTERS, 27 MAY 1969

Madam Chairman and friends: Once again, I am delighted to be able to meet with you and share some thoughts with you as in the past. I am glad that this practice has developed into an annual event.

First of all, let me express my very sincere thanks to all of you, not only for your magnificent work for the United Nations and the peoples of the United Nations, but also for your consistent understanding, co-operation and support, and your very sincere spirit of dedication and devotion to the principles of the Charter. As a matter of fact, the United Nations owes all of you a deep debt of gratitude.

I understand that the theme of your conference this year is "The United Nations at Twenty-five: Realities and Prospects". I am sure you could not have chosen a better theme. It is most timely and most urgent and very befitting the deliberations at the United Nations today. I understand that this year's theme was chosen in order to focus your attention on the forthcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and to enable you to understand how the United Nations purposes may be better fulfilled and its machinery and effectiveness strengthened in the years to come.

It has also been suggested that I should, in the course of this meeting, attempt to define four or five priorities for the purpose of your subsequent discussions. Of course, it is very difficult, if not impossible, for me or for any one of us, to attempt to define four or five priorities in the very limited time at our disposal. But if we agree on the criterion, if we agree on the basis of our discussions and the projection of our discussions, then I believe we shall agree, generally speaking, on the definition of priorities. To my way of thinking, the basis or the criterion for all of us to have is the survival and welfare of mankind. This should be our primary and paramount concern. As a matter of fact, I believe that the survival and welfare of mankind is the theme of the whole United Nations Charter. If we agree on this basis, then it is easier for us to agree on four or five priorities in the coming years.

First of all, I would say that one of the priority items before us is the question of the arms race, which has been a perennial item before the United Nations since its inception. Secondly, I would say that the question of the peace-keeping machinery of the United Nations should be one of the priority items. Then I would say the question of development should engage our attention. Then the question of colonialism also should be the concern of the international community. Last but not least, the question of race relationship in these turbulent times would be most appropriate for our collective consideration.

Now, as regards the question of the arms race, as you all know, it has been one of the most important items before every session of the General Assembly, and I propose to develop some ideas on this a little later on; but I should like to deal very briefly with four other priority items now.

Take first the question of the peace-keeping machinery of the United Nations. This problem is basic to the whole operation of this international Organization. I am sure you will agree with me in this assessment. But recently, there have been some encouraging signs, particularly in the deliberations of the Committee of Thirty-three, which is still in session; and I understand that there has been some perceptible progress on basic principles of peace-keeping in that Committee. I very much hope the Committee will be able to present a constructive, sensible and practical report to the next session of the General Assembly.

While on this subject, I want to draw your kind attention to a very thought-provoking booklet entitled "Controlling conflicts in the 1970's", published recently by a national policy panel established by the UNA-USA, presided over by Dr. Kingman Brewster, President of Yale University. In this booklet, various aspects of international peace-keeping have been dealt with — in my view, very comprehensively.

Now let me pass on to the next item: development. As you are aware, this question has been an obsession with the international community for many years. Now that the United Nations and its family of agencies are deeply involved in making preparations and setting up programmes for the launching of the Second Development Decade, I have nothing very much to say, as there is a massive documentation on this subject at the United

Nations and at the specialized agencies. For the moment, I just want to reiterate what I said to you last year. At the risk of repetition, let me read one or two paragraphs of what I said to you almost exactly a year ago in this same hall.

"The Second Development Decade must be based on the concept of a global strategy, a strategy which recognizes that this small planet of ours, despite its divisions into north and south, into developed and developing, into rich and poor, is in fact an indivisible entity. That fact must be recognized. This global strategy must also recognize that humanity, despite its divisions on the basis of race, creed or religion, is an indivisible whole. I think it is essential for all of us to recognize that basic fact.

"Secondly, we have to remember that the national interest of any country cannot remain within the boundaries of its own territory. The future of every nation depends primarily on international security, international peace and the development of international resources. In my view, that is a very important principle which all of us must bear in mind.

"Thirdly, humanity has now reached the crossroads of human history. This is a time when both the developed and the developing countries have to make a choice: either to come together to plan for a prosperous future to their mutual benefit, or to lead humanity to an unplanned society and to a chaotic future. That is the choice before both the developed and the developing countries; if common sense prevails, the choice of both the developed and the developing countries will, I am sure, be to plan collectively for mutual prosperity."

That is what I said last year, and I still maintain that those should be the basic considerations in our common efforts in launching the Second Development Decade.

Now, let me come to the next priority item: colonialism. As you know, colonialism has been on the way out, and it is on the way out, but still we are witnessing some distressing remnants of colonialism still rampant, particularly in Africa. On this subject, also, there is a massive documentation at the United Nations, and, if I may say so, this problem is directly connected

with our basic theme, the welfare of mankind. If we agree on the criterion that our primary objective should be the survival and welfare of mankind, then we have to agree that colonialism is one of the top priority items which should receive our urgent attention.

Then last, as I have said earlier, not the least, we have this problem of race relationship. It is tragic that this issue has developed into terrifying proportions recently in many parts of the world. It seems to me that there are potentialities of its developing into still more terrifying proportions. So, if we really mean to exert our utmost, to contribute to the best of our ability towards the welfare of mankind, then I am sure all of you will agree that this is one problem, which should receive top priority.

Now, coming back to the first point -- the arms race -- you all know that, in spite of repeated resolutions and decisions of the deliberative organs of the United Nations on the need to disarm, or, more realistically, on the need to reduce armaments, the arms race has been going on at a terrific speed. Now just think for a moment of the super-sophisticated means of mass destruction manufactured and deployed by both super-Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. It is common knowledge that both the United States and the Soviet Union have now the means to eliminate each other as viable societies, because of the ICBMs, which cannot be destroyed in a first strike. Even if the United States or the Soviet Union strikes first, the ICBMs, which cannot be destroyed in the first strike, will be -- or at least some of them will be -- still in operation. It is common knowledge that this is the most serious problem facing mankind today.

Apart from these facts, it is also common knowledge that both the United States and the Soviet Union are in effect defenceless, as far as the population and industry are concerned. As a matter of fact, the insecurity of these two super-Powers is at present at a new high and still growing. Then there are, of course, other factors, financial and human. Just think of the tremendous sacrifices that both the United States and the Soviet Union would have to make in order to manufacture and deploy these weapons of mass destruction, at a tremendous cost in money, skilled manpower and resources. This is a most serious problem. I would classify it as the problem of the seventies.

You will recall that the General Assembly at its last session adopted a very important resolution, urging "the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to enter, at an early date, into bilateral discussions on the limitation of offensive strategic nuclear weapons delivery systems and systems of defence against ballistic missiles". A similar appeal to the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union was also contained in the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States in Geneva.

As many of you are aware, in January this year, I transmitted to the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency the text of the aforementioned resolution, as well as the declaration of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States. I also transmitted a copy of the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.

In February this year, I sent a letter to the Co-Chairmen of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, transmitting, inter alia, the aforementioned resolutions.

In my message sent in March this year to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, I again drew the attention of the participants to that resolution. It was pointed out in that message that the General Assembly, by adopting that resolution, thus recognized that it was in the world's interest to encourage bilateral negotiations on this question, in order to prevent the dangers and enormous expense of a new spiral in the nuclear missile race.

I expressed my fervent hope that it would be possible "for the two great Powers to begin their talks at an early date". Then some heartening developments took place, as all of you are aware.

On 18 March 1969, in his message to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr. Kosygin, pointed out that solutions should be found "to the vitally important problems of cessation of manufacture of nuclear weapons, the reduction and destruction of their stockpiles, the limitation and subsequent reduction of means of delivery of strategic weapons."

Then, on 15 March 1969, in the letter of instructions which was given by the President of the United States, Mr. Nixon, to Ambassador Smith, who as you all know is the representative of the United States in the Disarmament Committee in Geneva, it was pointed out that "regarding the question of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic arms, the United States hoped that the international political situation will evolve in a way which will permit such talks to begin in the near future."

Then, the representative of the United States in the Disarmament Committee, referring to this subject, indicated that "the passage of some time was needed for the new Administration to make the necessary preparations" for such talks, and that "the timing should be favourable in a political sense".

In his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 27 March 1969, the Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers, referring to the talks with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic armaments, stated:

"Preparations for possible talks with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic armaments are also under way. The President's consultations with our allies on this subject during our European trip found them very favourable to the idea. We hope such talks can begin within the next few months."

Then, during the news conference on 7 April 1969, the Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers, answering the question whether there is anything that stands in the way of strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union, answered that:

"... there is nothing that stands in the way and they can go forward very soon. We are in the process of preparing for them now and we expect they will begin in the late spring or early summer".

These, ladies and gentlemen, are some encouraging trends in line with the General Assembly resolution adopted last year. And with this note of guarded optimism, may I extend to all of you once again my very sincere thanks and I wish you all a very successful conference.

ANNEX II

TEXT OF ADDRESS BY SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT AT ANNUAL

OPI/NGO CONFERENCE, UN HEADQUARTERS, 22 MAY 1968

I am very happy indeed to have this opportunity of meeting with you and sharing some thoughts on some of the major problems facing the United Nations and, for that matter, the human community.

I understand that the theme of your Conference this year is "Trade, Aid and People in an Inter-Dependent World". In my view, no theme could be more relevant to these tense times than the one you have chosen.

First, I want to express my very sincere thanks to all the NGO's, to all of you, for your dedication to the principles of the Charter, for your identification with the aims and objectives of the United Nations, and for your consistent efforts to disseminate information on the activities of the United Nations and its sister agencies. You will of course agree with me that the increasing interest taken by the peoples of the world in the activities of the United Nations is due in no small measure to your constant endeavours to perform your functions as outlined in your respective Constitutions.

I believe that the difference between the Charter of the United Nations and the Covenant of the League of Nations is worth recalling. The Covenant of the League of Nations used the words "The High Contracting Parties". The Charter of the United Nations uses the words "We the Peoples of the United Nations". In my view, that is a very significant difference. All the NGO's represent, without any doubt, the peoples of the United Nations. When, twenty-two years ago, the founding fathers said that the United Nations was to be established to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind", they were not addressing themselves to the Governments alone; they wanted the peoples of the United Nations also to contribute towards that great task of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war. When the founding fathers said that one of the primary objectives of the United Nations would be to "promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom", they were not addressing themselves exclusively to the Governments. In my view, they wanted the peoples of the United Nations also to be closely involved in this great task.

Since the theme of this year's Conference is "Trade, Aid and People in an Inter-Dependent World", I hope it will be relevant if I make some brief ob-

servations on the Development Decade, which will soon come to a close, and on the endeavours and arrangements being made by the United Nations and its sister agencies to launch a second Development Decade.

I want to draw your attention to the report submitted to the entire membership by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Dr. Prebisch, on the Second UNCTAD Conference which took place in New Delhi earlier this year. I would commend that report to your consideration. I am sure you will agree with me that it would not be proper for me to assess the results of UNCTAD II, held in New Delhi, inasmuch as the Secretary-General of that Agency has himself done so. I would, however, wish to give you a brief idea of my thinking on the subject of the Development Decade.

The first Development Decade, launched in 1961, has given us an inspirational impetus, has defined the issues clearly and set the priorities. Opinions may differ about the success or lack of success of the first Development Decade, but in my view it has set humanity on the right path and has cleared the ground for launching the second Development Decade. In order to launch the second Development Decade successfully, some basic principles and guide-lines must be borne in mind.

First, the second Development Decade must be based on the concept of a global strategy, a strategy which recognizes that this small planet of ours — despite its divisions into North and South, into developed and developing, into rich and poor — is in fact an indivisible entity. That fact must be recognized. This global strategy must also recognize that humanity, despite its divisions on the basis of race, creed or religion, is an indivisible whole. I think it is essential for all of us to recognize that basic fact.

Secondly, we have to remember that the national interest of any country cannot remain within the boundaries of its own territory. I repeat: the national interest cannot remain tightly inside the national boundaries. The future of every nation depends primarily on international security, international peace and the development of international resources. In my view, that is a very important principle which all of us must bear in mind.

Thirdly, humanity has now reached the crossroads of human history. This is a time when both the developed and the developing countries have to make a choice: either to come together to plan for a prosperous future to their mutual benefit, or to lead humanity to an unplanned society and to a chaotic future.

That is the choice before both the developed and the developing countries. If common sense prevails the choice of both the developed and the developing countries will, I am sure, be to plan collectively for mutual prosperity.

These are my observations in relation not only to the launching of the second Development Decade, but also to the general subject of the human situation today.

At the risk of repetition, I should like to make some remarks that I have already made on several previous occasions.

In my view, there are four major causes of tensions in the world today. First, tensions are caused by political differences -- in other words, by differences due to political ideologies or convictions.

Secondly, tensions are caused by the disparity between the rich countries and the poor countries, between the developed and the developing, between the North and the South. It has been common knowledge for some time now that we are apt to think of the world as divided into East and West, on the basis of ideological differences. In my view, that division is on the way out. Humanity has to coexist peacefully in spite of differences on political ideologies. Humanity has to coexist peacefully in the same way that, as I have said before, all the great religions have to coexist peacefully. But what is most important and most significant, and in the long run what is most explosive, is the widening gulf between the rich and the poor. As everyone knows, since the end of the Second World War the rich countries have become richer and the poor countries have become poorer. The trend is still in the same direction. The gulf is still widening. It is one of the primary tasks of the United Nations and its sister agencies to try to narrow the gulf. It is one of the primary functions of the United Nations and its family of agencies to try to raise the living standards of the peoples, particularly of those in the developing countries. This great task of narrowing the gulf cannot wait for the solution of some of the economic problems faced by some of the industrialized countries. It cannot wait for the end of political conflicts. It cannot wait even for the termination of the armed conflicts. The problems are urgent and the remedy must be sought urgently. If both the developed and the developing countries do not come to realize that the widening gulf will lead humanity from one crisis to another, more serious crisis, I am very pessimistic about the future of humanity. This widening gulf is, in my

view, the most potent and most important source of tensions in the world today.

The third cause of tensions in the world today is, I believe, related to what is called discrimination on the basis of the colour of the skin. Racial discrimination in any part of the world -- or what is sometimes called apart-
heid -- is one of the very serious causes of tensions in the world today, as it will be in the world tomorrow. This also has to be tackled, not only by the Governments but also by the peoples of the United Nations.

The fourth cause of tensions in the world today is, I think, related to what I would call the legacy of colonial systems, the remnants of colonial systems. We are witnessing problems, particularly in Africa, which I would relate to the colonial past. They are still causes of tensions in the world today.

Of those four causes of tensions in the world today, your deliberations now and in the days to come will be related primarily to the second cause; tensions due to economic disparities, between the rich and the poor, between the developed and the developing countries. In that great task of narrowing the gulf, the attitudes of the Governments are, of course, of primary importance; but the attitudes of the peoples of the United Nations will also have very great significance. I think that the basic attitude which all of us should have, either in the political field or in the economic field or in the social field, is related primarily to education. We belong to the old generation, more or less. The hope for the future lies essentially with the new generation. As you know, I was involved in the educational development of my country for a number of years before the war. Although I have been out of the education service of my country for some years now, I continue to take a very great interest in educational developments, in educational concepts and in the philosophies behind those concepts. I am increasingly convinced of one thing: the educational systems in many parts of the world need a thorough overhaul. I am sure that some of you will remember some observations I made on this point on a previous occasion. I likened education to the food we eat. Those of you who know something about dietetics know that if we are to grow, the food we eat must contain three essential ingredients: proteins, carbohydrates and fats. I think that this is recognized by the medical community. In the same way, in my view there should be at least three essential ingredients in the education we impart to our young boys and girls, so that the next generation will be able to shoulder its responsibilities effectively.

The first ingredient in a sound and sensible system of education is what I would call the vocational aspect. I think it is necessary for all educational systems to train a boy or girl in how to do a job. We have to train the young children to become doctors, or engineers, or lawyers, or teachers, or bankers or politicians. They have to be trained for a certain type of vocation. That is a must.

The second essential ingredient in a sound and sensible system of education is what I would call the social aspect. In other words, we have to train our young boys and girls in how to be good citizens — that is, education for citizenship. And when I say that, I do not mean that a child should be trained to be a good citizen of only New York City or New York State or the United States, or any other country. He must be trained to be a good citizen of the whole human community. I think that is essential in these times, particularly when we are living under the shadow of the hydrogen bomb.

The third essential ingredient of a sound and sensible system of education is related to what I would call a certain scale of values; what is best in all of us, what could be regarded as the key to all the great religions. In other words, this aspect of education is related to the moral and spiritual development of man. I think our children must be trained to value and cherish the moral and spiritual virtues or qualities, such as humility, modesty, compassion, love, the philosophy of live-and-let-live, and the desire to understand the other person's point of view. Those, in my opinion, are the basic teachings of all the great religions of the world.

Those three essential ingredients must be ingrained in any system of education anywhere. Only then will the next generation be able to face the future with hope and confidence.

In conclusion, I want to share a thought with you which I have shared with many other friends in the past when I have dealt not only with economic problems but also with political and social problems. I refer to the paramount importance of the human factor. I think that the human factor is much more essential to our approach to problems than the political factor or the military factor or any other factor. And when I say that the human factor is important, I mean that we have to have a revival of humanism in our hearts. I would say this to illustrate my point: A dead child in the arms of its grandmother is my child. A wounded soldier — whether American or Vietnamese or Jew or Arab — a wounded soldier

with inevitable thoughts of his home, his family, his village, his town, his country, is my son. That is my approach to all problems.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you once again for your patient attention.

'Enforceable World Laws' Urged by Thant for Peace

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 26—Secretary General Thant called on all governments today to establish "enforceable world laws, world police and world courts" to preserve peace and justice. Otherwise the United Nations cannot survive, he said.

In a speech to representatives of private groups accredited here as observers, Mr. Thant said member states must abide by the ground rules. Decisions approved unanimously by the Security Council "must be enforceable" and cannot be regarded as one-sided or biased or prejudiced, he said.

He said accusations of bias had been made by South Africa, which has been condemned because it refused to relinquish control over her Southwest Africa mandate, and by Portugal, which has flouted Council decisions calling for the end of Portuguese rule in Angola and Mozambique.