

UNCIO - Working papers - Plenary UN Committee on Jurists & general committees
- opening session.

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JOURNAL

NUMBER 2

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 26, 1945

Order of the Day

April 26, 1945

The chairmen of the delegations will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Veterans Building to consider the organization of the Conference.

The First Plenary Session will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Opera House. The session will receive and act upon the report of the meeting of the chairmen of the delegations.

Statements will be made by the chairmen of the delegations of the sponsoring countries and by the chairmen of other delegations desiring to make statements. If the presentation of these statements is not completed at this plenary session, it will be continued at the next plenary session.

Opening Session of the Conference

Opera House, April 25, 1945

Address by the President of the United States

DELEGATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION:

The world has experienced a revival of an old faith in the everlasting moral force of justice. At no time in history has there been a more important conference, or a more necessary meeting, than this one in San Francisco, which you are opening today.

On behalf of the American people, I extend to you a most hearty welcome.

President Roosevelt appointed an able delegation to represent the United States. I have complete confidence in its chairman, Secretary of State Stettinius, and in his distinguished colleagues, former Secretary Cordell Hull, Senator Connally, Senator Vandenberg, Representative Bloom and Representative Eaton, Governor Stassen, and Dean Gildersleeve.

They have my confidence. They have my support.

In the name of a great humanitarian—one who surely is with us today in spirit—I earnestly appeal to each and every one of you to rise above personal interests, and adhere to those lofty principles which benefit all mankind.

Franklin D. Roosevelt gave his life while trying to per-

petuate these high ideals. This Conference owes its existence, in a large part, to the vision, foresight, and determination of Franklin Roosevelt.

Each of you can remember other courageous champions who also made the supreme sacrifice, serving under your flag. They gave their lives, so that others might live in security. They died to

insure justice. We must work and live to guarantee justice—for all.

You members of this Conference are to be architects of a better world. In your hands rests our future. By your labors at this Conference, we shall know if suffering humanity is to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Let us labor to achieve a peace which is really worthy of their great sacrifice. We must make certain, by your work here, that another war will be impossible.

We, who have lived through the torture and the tragedy of two world conflicts, must realize the magnitude of the problem before us. We do not need far-sighted vision to understand the trend in recent history. Its significance is all too clear.

With ever-increasing brutality and destruction, modern warfare, if unchecked,

Summary of Proceedings

OPENING SESSION

The Opening Session of the United Nations Conference on International Organization was convened by the Honorable Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., temporary President of the Conference, at 4:33 p.m. on April 25, 1945 in the War Memorial Opera House of the City of San Francisco.

The temporary President requested a minute of silent and solemn meditation.

Mr. Stettinius introduced the President of the United States, who addressed the Conference from Washington. The temporary President introduced successively the Honorable Earl Warren, Governor of the State of California, and the Honorable Roger D. Lapham, Mayor of the City of San Francisco, each of whom delivered addresses of welcome to the delegates.

The temporary President addressed the Conference.

Mr. Stettinius introduced Mr. Alger Hiss, temporary Secretary General of the Conference, who announced that—

- (1) the chairmen of all delegations would meet at 10:30 a.m. on April 26, 1945 in the Veterans War Memorial Building, and
- (2) the first official plenary session of the Conference would convene at 3:30 p.m. on April 26, 1945, in the Opera House.

The temporary President declared the Opening Session adjourned.

(Verbatim minutes of the Opening Session, containing the addresses, will be distributed separately as Document 8.)

would ultimately crush all civilization. We still have a choice between the alternatives: the continuation of international chaos, or the establishment of a world organization for the enforcement of peace.

It is not the purpose of this Conference to draft a treaty of peace in the old sense of that term. It is not our assignment to settle specific questions of territories, boundaries, citizenship, and reparations.

This Conference will devote its energies and its labors exclusively to the single problem of setting up the essential organization to keep the peace. You are to write the fundamental charter.

Our sole objective, at this decisive gathering, is to create the structure. We must provide the machinery which will make future peace not only possible but certain.

The construction of this delicate machine is far more complicated than drawing boundary lines upon a map, or estimating fair reparations, or placing reasonable limits on armaments. Your task must be completed first.

We represent the overwhelming majority of all mankind. We speak for people who have endured the most savage and devastating war ever inflicted upon innocent men, women and children.

We hold a powerful mandate from our people. They believe we will fulfill this obligation. We must prevent, if human mind, heart, and hope can prevent, the repetition of the disasters from which the entire world will suffer for years to come.

If we should pay merely lip service to the inspiring ideals and then later do violence to simple justice, we would draw down upon us the bitter wrath of generations yet unborn.

We must not continue to sacrifice the flower of our youth merely to check madmen, those who in every age plan world domination. The sacrifices of our youth today must lead, through your efforts, to the building for tomorrow of a mighty combination of nations founded upon justice for peace.

Justice remains the greatest power on earth.

To that tremendous power alone, will we submit.

Nine days ago, I told the Congress of the United States, and I now repeat it to you:

"Nothing is more essential to the future peace of the world than the continued cooperation of the nations which had to muster the force necessary to defeat the conspiracy of the Axis powers to dominate the world.

"While these great states have a special responsibility to enforce the peace, their responsibility is based upon the obligations resting upon all states, large and small, not to use force in international relations, except in the defense of the law. The responsibility of great states is to serve, and not to dominate the peoples of the world."

None of us doubts that with Divine guidance, friendly cooperation, and hard work, we shall find an adequate answer to the problem history has put before us.

Realizing the scope of our task and the imperative need for success, we proceed with humility and determination.

By harmonious cooperation, the United Nations repelled the onslaught of the greatest aggregation of military force that was ever assembled in the long history of aggression.

Every nation now fighting for freedom is giving according to its ability and opportunity.

We fully realize today that victory in war requires a mighty united effort. Certainly, victory in peace calls for, and must receive, an equal effort.

Man has learned long ago that it is impossible to live unto himself. This same basic principle applies today to nations. We were not isolated during the war; we dare not now become isolated in peace.

All will concede that in order to have good neighbors we must also be good neighbors. That applies to every field of human endeavor.

For lasting security, men of good-will must unite and organize. Moreover, if our friendly policies should ever be considered by belligerent leaders as merely evidence of weakness, the organization we establish must be adequately prepared to meet every challenge.

Differences between men, and between nations, will always remain. In fact, if held within reasonable limits, such disagreements are actually wholesome. All progress begins with differences of opinion and moves onward as the differences are adjusted through reason and mutual understanding.

In recent years, our enemies have clearly demonstrated the disaster which follows when freedom of thought is no longer tolerated. Honest minds cannot long be regimented without protest.

The essence of our problem here is to provide sensible machinery for the settlement of disputes among nations. Without this, peace cannot exist. We can no longer permit any nation, or group of nations, to attempt to settle their arguments with bombs and bayonets.

If we continue to abide by such decisions, we will be forced to accept the fundamental philosophy of our enemies, namely, that "might makes right." To deny this premise, and we most certainly do deny it, we are obliged to provide the necessary means to refute it. Words are not enough.

We must once and for all reverse the order, and prove by our acts conclusively, that right has might.

If we do not want to die together in war, we must learn to live together in peace.

With firm faith in our hearts to sustain us along

the hard road to victory, we will find our way to secure peace for the ultimate benefit for all humanity.

We must build a new world—a far better world—one in which the eternal dignity of man is respected.

As we are about to undertake our heavy duties, we beseech Almighty God to guide us in the building of a permanent monument to those who gave their lives that this moment might come.

May He lead our steps in His own righteous path of peace.

Residence and Office Quarters

Hotels in which the Conference participants will be housed are as follows:

Australia	Sir Francis Drake
Belgium	Fairmont
Bolivia	St. Francis
Brazil	St. Francis
Canada	St. Francis
Chile	St. Francis
China	Mark Hopkins
Colombia	St. Francis
Costa Rica	St. Francis
Cuba	St. Francis
Czechoslovakia	Fairmont
Dominican Republic	Sir Francis Drake
Ecuador	St. Francis
Egypt	St. Francis
El Salvador	Sir Francis Drake
Ethiopia	St. Francis
France	St. Francis
Staff	Clift
Greece	Sir Francis Drake
Guatemala	Sir Francis Drake
Haiti	St. Francis
Honduras	Sir Francis Drake
India	Mark Hopkins
Iran	St. Francis
Iraq	St. Francis
Lebanon	Mark Hopkins
Liberia	Mark Hopkins

Luxembourg	Mark Hopkins
Mexico	St. Francis
Netherlands	Whitcomb
New Zealand	Sir Francis Drake
Nicaragua	St. Francis
Norway	Fairmont
Panama	Sir Francis Drake
Paraguay	St. Francis
Peru	St. Francis
Philippine Commonwealth	St. Francis
Saudi Arabia	Fairmont
Syria	Mark Hopkins
Turkey	St. Francis
Union of South Africa	Fairmont
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	St. Francis
United Kingdom	Mark Hopkins
Staff	Clift
United States of America	Fairmont
Uruguay	Sir Francis Drake
Venezuela	St. Francis
Yugoslavia	Fairmont

Information Booths

The United Nations Information Service booths have been established in the official Conference hotels and in the lobby of the Veterans Building for the use of the delegates, and for all other persons attached to the Conference.

The booths are prepared to furnish information concerning restaurants, theaters, recreation and sports facilities, trips to nearby points of interest, museums, and shopping services with interpreters, as well as assistance in answering any other questions for the convenience of Conference personnel.

The information booths will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. until further notice.

List of Documents Issued

April 25, 1945

Subject	Symbol	Doc. No.
Provisional List of Delegates	G/3	4
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TIME SCHEDULE FOR OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

APRIL 25

3:00 - Doors open

All persons attending are kindly asked to be in their seats by 4:00

4:00 - Band starts to play

4:30 - Broadcast begins

Secretary Stettinius, Governor Warren, Mayor Lapham, and Mr. Hiss walk on stage.

4:33 - Mr. Stettinius rises to call meeting to order and to ask a moment of silent meditation. He then announces President Truman

4:34 - President Truman goes on air

4:44 - President ends speech

Opportunity provided for applause

4:45 - Mr. Stettinius introduces Governor Warren

Opportunity provided for applause

4:46 - Governor Warren speaks

4:49 - Governor Warren ends speech

Opportunity provided for applause

Mr. Stettinius introduces Mayor Lapham

4:50 - Mayor Lapham speaks

4:53 - Mayor Lapham ends speech

Opportunity provided for applause

4:54 - Mr. Stettinius speaks

4:58 - Mr. Stettinius ends speech

5:00 - Broadcast ends