

Desperately Ill UN Observes Fifth Anniversary Tomorrow

By Bruce W. Munn
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Lake Success, N. Y., Apr. 24—(U.P.)—The United Nations, five years old tomorrow, is desperately ill while its chief physician speeds half-way around the world seeking an east-west agreement, the only medicine that can save it.

In an operation as delicate as any ever performed in an anti-septic amphitheater, Trygve Lie, UN secretary-general, is en route to the capitals of western Europe and to Moscow.

Seeks to Restore Unity

His task is to restore a semblance of the five-power unity on which the UN was founded when diplomats from 51 nations gathered in the opera house at San Francisco on Apr. 25, 1945, to draft the charter of the world organization.

Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius told that initial gathering:

"The prayers of the people of the world are with us . . . as one voice, rising from the tragedy and suffering of war, in prayer for lasting peace."

Five years later, diplomats from the 59 nations now members of the UN still are seeking peace. But despite four general assemblies—with three special sessions thrown in—and more than 400 meetings of the security council, the UN's pattern for peace is as shaky as when its ill-starred predecessor, the League of Nations, was blown into limbo by the guns of World War II.

Debates Pointless

The UN's endless debates have been made almost pointless by the cold war between Russia and the west, the national aspirations of its members, and mutual suspicion on both sides of the iron curtain.

Its activities have been dangerously crippled by the walkout of Russia and her cominform partners, who have vowed to boycott the world organization until nationalist China, whose right to its seat is supported by the United States, is ousted.

On the infrequent occasions since 1945 when the Big Five—or more precisely, Russia and the United States—have been able to work together, the world or-

ganization has achieved results. East-west cooperation, generated and nurtured in talks begun between U. S. Ambassador-at-Large Philip C. Jessup and Chief Soviet Delegate Jacob A. Malik at the UN eased the most critical phase of the cold war and brought an end to the Berlin blockade in the spring of 1949.

East and west worked together to bring peace to the Holy Land and end the Arab-Jewish war that threatened to engulf the middle east in 1947 and held the potential of a third world war.

Civil War Ended

Civil war was ended in the Dutch East Indies, and the threat of a communist coup averted when The Netherlands, under pressure from the security council, granted independence to the United States of Indonesia at The Hague round-table conference in 1949.

War between India and Pakistan has been averted as the UN seeks mediation of their dispute concerning the princely state of Kashmir.

A communist push in oil-rich Iran fell flat in 1946 when, despite Russia's first walkout staged by "No" Man Andrei Gromyko, the security council probed ancient Persia's problems in exhaustive debate.

The UN's critics thought its end had come when Gromyko kept his delegation out for two weeks. The current Soviet boycott is now 2½ months old but the UN, although admittedly missing on several cylinders, still is an operating machine.

Central Figures

Central figures in the UN impasse, as always, are the U. S. and Russia. The U. S. has given strong indications that it wants the Russians and their satellites to come back. Russia has given no indication that it has any desire to stay away permanently.

The two countries, however, are engaged in a power struggle watched anxiously by the world's lesser powers, and neither can risk losing face by an abrupt change of position on the question of communist China, the log-headed issue.

If agreement can be brought about on the Chinese issue, Lie hopes to hold a midsummer "peace session" of the security council, probably at Geneva.

Switzerland, at which foreign ministers or even heads of state can discuss the world's problems.

If an atmosphere approaching cordiality can be achieved at such a meeting, the UN can go ahead with Lie "20-year program for peace" and can press a myriad of less publicized projects.

6,000 Expected at June Elks Convention

Corvallis, Apr. 24—Corvallis Elks are expecting 6,000 Oregon Elks and their ladies at the annual Elks convention to be held here June 9, 10 and 11 and a long list of dignitaries attending will include Gov. Douglas McKay, Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry, Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Rilea and the present grand exalted ruler, Emmett T. Anderson, Tacoma, Wash.

The Elks parade to be held Friday, June 9, will boast colorful marching units from all over the state—units of the 41st division and their band, Portland Elks bands, Corvallis, Albany, Eugene, Toledo and Newport high school bands; Ashland Kiltie band, Oregon State college band, Grants Pass Cavemen, Benton County Sheriff's posse, Coos Bay pirates and the governor's guard.

Corvallis lady Elks are making arrangements to entertain 2,000 women at the convention and housing has been assured with the cooperation of the college and motor courts.

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