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Rhyne Asks For World Code Of Law

Lagos, Nigeria, Dec. 4—Charles S. Rhyne, a former North Carolinian who is a past president of the American Bar Association, called today for "more than a hundred task forces" of lawyers to set up a code of law for the world.

The Washington, D. C., man presented his idea to a conference of lawyers of Africa and the Middle East on "world peace through the rule of law."

"We are witnessing an ever-accelerating race, an old fashioned arms race conducted with weapons of the holocaust," he said.

"History teaches that every such arms race explodes by accident or design sooner or later into war."

Declaring that the rule of law is "man's greatest peace asset," Rhyne said the great problem "is how to fill the world with law before it is filled with mushroom clouds of death."

Proposing a "great law-making crusade that will cause the thoughts of the man-in-the-street to turn as automatically to peaceful settlement of international disputes as of village disputes," he said a start should be made by creating numerous working parties of lawyers to write international codes of fair play governing international contacts, trade and other areas requiring new law or more law, new legal institutions or stronger institutions.

A code should be written, after a review of U.N. experiences in the Congo, Suez and elsewhere, he said, concerning when and how U.N. intervention should be authorized and operated.

Legal disputes involving Berlin, he said, should go to the World Court.

Already, he pointed out, there are codifications in limited areas, including the law of the sea, diplomatic immunity, international aviation, narcotics and the Antarctic. These areas should be expanded, he said.

Rhyne, who was born on a farm in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, attended Duke University as a classmate of former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon. He had to quit Duke in the depression, but went on to get a law degree at George Washington University in Washington, D. C. At 44 he was the youngest president in history of the American Bar Association.

President Kennedy, in a message of greeting the conferences asserted: "Supremacy of law within nations insures the freedom of man."

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FREEDOM AND LOGIC

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Why not a National Think-Things-Through Week? We have had Bubble-Gum Week and a Hula-Hoop Week; why not a week during which we would declare a moratorium on twaddle and apply the rules of common sense to questions affecting the American future? Every proposition would be rigorously tested. It would be open season on contradictions and empty assumptions. For example:

1. Advocates of home fallout shelters contend we must be realistic in a nuclear age. They say we must accept the possibility that the United States may be hit without warning. They say that home shelters could save millions of lives. Then when the point is made that an all-out attack involving firestorms and radiological weapons could convert home shelters into human incinerators or burial vaults, the proponents of home shelters say that this is an extreme view. They say that poison gas was available in the last war but was not used, and that we are therefore wrong in assuming that an enemy would employ a total nuclear attack this time. They feel certain he would concentrate on military targets, expending only as many nuclear explosives as are essential for that purpose. Having invoked a raging uncertainty about the intentions of the enemy in the first place, they switch to a soothing certainty about the intentions of the enemy in the second place.

In short, we are expected to believe that the same enemy who is unscrupulous enough to hit us in a surprise nuclear attack would be too decent to use whatever force is necessary for his objectives.

2. The nuclear-gamesmanship contingent says that under no circumstances should there be negotiations looking toward an elimination of nuclear weapons. They know of no system of inspection or enforcement that cannot be violated. The fact that the enemy cannot be trusted is the prime fact of modern life. Therefore, they see a continuation of the nuclear arms race not just as an inescapable fact but as perhaps an essential fact. When it is asked whether a miscalculation or an accidental explosion leading to nuclear war might be the probable result of the arms race, they assure us that such is not the case. We are told, for example, that in the event of an initial explosion, the President of the United States could telephone the leader of the enemy nation and ask whether the blast is in fact the beginning of war; or he would ask whether some

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