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Successful A.F.A. Institute

The First Annual World Problems Leadership Institute at Blowing Rock, N. C., July 17-18, was considered a success by all who were fortunate enough to be able to attend.

In the cool, beautiful mountains at the Evangelical and Reformed Church Assembly Grounds, regional leaders in the field of information on world problems met for two days of stimulating, informative and thought-provoking discussion.

Leaders from five States participated in the program.

It was such a success, from many aspects, that plans are already being made for next year's Institute.

A.F.A. members and friends are urged to plan next year's vacation so as to include the Second Annual World Problems Institute.

AT THE INSTITUTE

Among the fine discussions which made up the Institute, it was possible to record a few for the benefit of those who could not attend.

Africa

The Reverend Howard Yow, former Friends Missionary to Kenya Colony, Africa, opened the Institute with a discussion on rapidly changing Africa and its problems. Tracing the educational, religious, and cultural development of the diverse African population, Reverend Yow likened Africa to a baby chick on the verge of breaking out of its shell.

Reverend Yow explained during his most interesting talk that the majority of conflicts and tensions among the African people, including the Mau Mau problem, arise from the natural evolution of Africa's many cultures and frictions between the old and the new. Communist elements strive to muddy the waters further, but, so far, have not been able to establish a strong foothold in Middle and Southern Africa.

The Bible, and the teachings of Christ, in particular, have proven a tremendous catalyst in Africa's rapidly changing conditions, Rev. Yow stated.

Atomic Energy

Dr. Clifford Beck led a highly significant and timely discussion on "Atomic Energy—For Peace or War?". After reviewing certain basic facts about atomic energy as a fuel, Dr. Beck traced the development of U. S. atomic energy policies to the present: (1) To 1945, simply atomic weapons to win the war; (2) 1945-1950, stock-pile atomic weapons, guard our secrets (even from our Allies) and try to maintain military atomic weapons supremacy; (3) 1949-52, Korea and development of Russian A-Bomb; vast expansion of atomic weapons—A-Rockets, A-Cannon and variety of other A-weapons; development of nuclear fuel and military A-vehicles (submarines, etc.); development of H.-Bomb; (4) 1953, Russian H-Bomb tested and change in U. S. policy from emphasis on weapons to emphasis on civilian use of nuclear fuel, with Eisenhower proposal for international pool of nuclear fuel.

The result of the policy development is that we now have as our **second major weapon** in the international struggle for survival the **production and sharing** of economical nuclear power.

Dr. Beck explained that the rapid succession of international events, including Korea and Indochina, have shown us that this global struggle will not be won by A and H Bombs on cities and battlefields, but in the fields of strategy and diplomacy. "In this kind of war, victory is counted in

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Is The U.N. Dying?

"The United Nations is dying. It is high time we faced up to that fact and tried to prevent this incalculable tragedy for the Nations of the free."

Thus spoke Carlos P. Romulo in a recent article in Collier's. Mr. Romulo, a staunch defender of the U.N., attended the founding Conference at San Francisco and declared then that the U.N. as established could not preserve peace because it was not based on effective law to control arms.

He was President of the General Assembly in 1949, and has continued to urge basic improvement of the world organization.

Mr. Romulo says the U.N. is wasting away from political malnutrition and not entirely because of Russia. It is the free world, says Mr. Romulo, which is steadily weakening the U.N. "We talk lots of sweet talk about it, but refuse to give it the political vitamins it needs." The free world is cutting the ground from under the U.N. by consistently sidestepping that organization when major world problems arise, contends Mr. Romulo.

"In short, members of the U.N. are more and more taking the great political issues outside the framework of the organization, rendering the U.N. little more than a debating society."

Why is this true? The main reason is that few Nations have any confidence in the U.N.'s ability to effectively handle **any** major world problem. Other than the work being done by the specialized agencies of the U.N. and the fine efforts of a few outstanding statesmen like Dr. Frank Graham, the U.N.'s record hasn't been too good in the peace-making field.

This is due to the fact that the U.N. does not have the machinery or "muscles" to prevent war or stop aggression.

Unfortunately, many U.N. leaders refuse to admit that the U.N. has weaknesses. They argue, as the supporters of the ineffective League of Nations did, that if the "nations would only use the U.N. and be good," the U.N. could do the job.

U.N. leaders and spokesmen should be the first to admit the U.N. has weaknesses and the first to propose means of correcting those weaknesses.

It is not enough to say, "If everyone would be good and cooperative, the present U.N. could work." If everyone was "good and cooperative," we wouldn't need a U.N.

It is precisely because men **aren't** good and **aren't** cooperative that the U.N. must be improved so that peace can be maintained despite the obnoxious and dangerous behavior of a few outlaws.

If the supporters and leaders of the U.N. want people to have confidence in it and want the Nations to conduct international affairs through it, these people must come to the fore as the leaders of the movement to improve the machinery of the U.N.

Just recently, Generals Mark Clark and Van Fleet strongly attacked the U.N. and urged our withdrawal from it. Mr. Romulo says, "Kill the U.N. and you increase tremendously the chances that man will one day wipe himself off the face of the earth." This is no doubt true, but, if the U.N. is to avoid being killed (or die of malnutrition), its own leaders must rally public support behind a movement to improve it.

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Begin plans now for your UN Day and Week activities. Don't wait until you have too little time to put on a meaningful program. Contact A.F.A. for program ideas and literature.