Arms Inspection And Our Liberties

by Dorothy Thompson

Winston-Salem Journal
September 27, 1955

The question of arms limitation is coming up again in the current session of the United Nations. Because of the extremely complicated character of this matter, the American people are inclined to regard it as something to be left to the "experts". But in a highly armed world, which has no intention of totally disarming, some of the proposed measures to "control" armaments hold dangers which few of us have faced up to.

The United States has taken the lead, ever since the original Baruch proposal, in insisting that the armaments of national states be subjected to "foolproof" or "adequate" international control. Just how this control should be exercised has suggested numerous changes of policy. The present American proposals, presented to the Soviets at Geneva by President Eisenhower, would exercise control by the exchange of military blueprints and aerial reconnaisance by each power over the military installations of the other, the object being to make preparation for a "surprise attack" impossible, without discovery.

Note From Bulganin

Marshal Bulganin has addressed a note to President Eisenhower on the disarmament question in which he said that aerial reconnaisance would be insufficient to permit effective inspection.

The whole question of what would logically follow from any sort of "adequate" inspection exercised by one power or all powers, or an international authority, within the national domains of others, is a matter of the most supreme importance.

If Soviet and American inspectors are to be admitted to each other's countries, can inspectors from any other state or power be refused, or any state exempted? The USSR and the United States are not the only countries with atomic weapons. Great Britain has them and other states may have them tomorrow. Nor are these the only possible "weapons of mass destruction." Bacteriological weapons might easily be produced by a small but ambitious state with scores to settle with its neighbors, and start a war while the great powers were inspecting each other!

But, what could be the effect on the life of this country, its customs, traditions, freedoms, and human relations, of opening our gates for such inspectors? And would its exercise lead to a "relaxation of international tensions"?

Ferdinand L. Mayer, who was a member of the American delegation to the Armament Limitation Conference in Geneva in the thirties, raised some of these questions in a letter to The New York Times on September 6. He inquires bluntly whether our way of life could be maintained if even an "adequate" system of inspection and control were operating and firmly answers that it could not—that inspection would "eventually destroy . . . individual freedom, liberty of action and free enterprise." The inspection system must, to be effective, "so pervade our national life as to affect our daily way of living . . . It would mean giving a non-national authority the right and opportunity, indeed the duty, to inspect everywhere . . . any time, and any place, where there was . . . a suspected deviation . . . and to deal immediately, and on the spot with any such situation."

Encouraging Informers

Such an authority, he continues, would have to be permitted, indeed encouraged, to set up and operate a vast intelligence system, which always means the encouragement of informers—and which would inevitably, I add, be matched by a vastly expanded counter-intelligence system. For how, otherwise, could the inspectors be inspected and America be protected?

The people, then, would be caught in a network of spies and counter-spies, afraid to open their mouths, and our civil liberties would end. It is a recipe for the establishment of a secret-police state, and not even an American secret-police state!

And it would lead inevitably to continually publicized charges and countercharges, claims and denials, exciting international suspicions and exacerbating tensions.

The representatives of the American people should exercise their imaginations lest a surprise attack of a different kind than the atom bomb overtake us.

The success of the American Freedom Association depends on you. It's success will depend on how you support it and how you use its services and tools.

Some of us are very busy and find little time to take a real active part. If this is your problem, there is still much that you can do.

You can donate AFA literature to your church, civic, professional or education organization. You can mail it to friends and relatives. You can ask your doctor or dentist to let you keep his waiting room supplied with it.

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(Why not put suitable AFA literature in your offices' waiting room—in your doctor's and dentist's waiting room? Why not enclose a suitable item in each letter you write? Why not put "Three Kinds of Peace" in your church's pew racks?)

Tar Heel Women Discover UN To Be More Than Glass House

(GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS—Sunday, October 16, 1955)

To 84 Home Demonstration, Grange and Farm Bureau women of North Carolina, the United Nations is no longer just a glass house alongside the East River in New York, an item on a sightseeing agenda.

Because of a study tour these women have just taken as leaders in their communities, the United Nations has become a living organization which they—and other people like them over the world—must make to go on.

Something They Can Do

"You North Carolina farm women have already done more to support the United Nations than any other one group," Dr. Clark Eichelberger, director of the American Association for the United Nations, told the group. And because of the interest and appreciation voiced by persons like Dr. Eichelberger, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Frank P. Graham, 84 farm women have come home knowing that there is something they can do to support the international organization.

"Tell people the human interest stories," suggested Emil Corwin of the Food and Agricultural Organization who briefed the club members at the UN. "Tell them about the man who introduced the common hoe to the farm people of Afganistan who had known only sticks and stones. Tell them about the FOA specialist who showed a backward people how to increase their efficiency ten-fold simply by changing from a sickle to a scythe. Tell them you can't put a tractor into the hands of man who has never even seen a primitive plow."

Impact Around The World

Corwin explained that these are not the stories that make newspaper headlines, but they are services rendered by the specialized agencies of the United Nations that are making a terrific impact upon people around the world.

Corwin explained that another great work of FOA is combatting protein malnutrition where people have become easy prey to disease. "When people are well fed, they are going to be relatively peace-loving, he said. FOA is now urging countries to be selective about what they grow—to grow only what they will need for consumption and export. "We need to make people conscious of their agricultural problems," Corwin added.

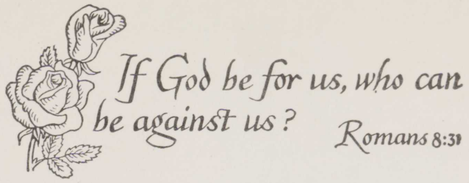
From Miss Jean Shaffnin of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the North Carolina delegates learned that only five out of 10 children in the world ever go to school, and that only one out of 10 ever gets beyond the elementary school. "Ignorance is one of our greatest problems," she explained. "However, we are teaching people many things before they are taught to read and write.

UNESCO training centers are being set up to teach people in backward countries how to solve their health problems, to show them better methods of farming, to demonstrate how they can run their home more efficiently. UNESCO is a science clearing house, but it cannot go into any country unless the people have asked specifically for help.

"Perhaps the biggest thing UNESCO is trying to teach people is how to work together as a community to help themselves. In one little country, for example, the people wanted a street light. This may seem unimportant; to them it was a tremendous goal, almost a symbol. These people wanted the street light badly enough that they worked together to get it. It really doesn't matter just where these people start, it's the beginning that counts," Miss Shaffnin said.

The 1955 United Nations trip is over, but this 1,000 miles to and from the pulse of the world has made 84 farm women know that whatever the United Nations does today, regardless of how remote it may seem, has a definite bearing upon their future prosperity and upon their very lives. It has taught them, too, that the United Nations is not an entity with the power to act. It is simply machinery which must be kept running by people of the world—simple folk, everyday farm and city folk, just like them.

This information is of particular interest to the supporters of AFA because of the fact that Mr. Samuel R. Levering, President of AFA, and his wife, Miriam, were in charge of this trip of Home Demonstration Women to the United Nations.



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I believe that God created man to live in peace and society with his fellow man.
I believe that mankind is one and that peace is one.
I believe that peace is "the tranquility of order."
I believe that God intended political society as one means whereby man might live in peace and achieve temporal well-being and happiness.
I believe that the function of political society is to provide for the common welfare and the common good.
I believe that political society cannot exist without authority.
I believe that just authority cannot exist without law.
I believe that law cannot exist without govermental agencies to enact, apply and enforce it.
I believe that governments are instituted by and for men and derive their just authority from the consent of the governed.
I believe that the moral principal of doing good and avoiding evil applies not only to men but to all political societies.
I believe that these truths apply universally to men and nations throughout the world.
I believe that atomic energy applied dedicated to purposes of peace will enhance the inalienable right of men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
I believe that justice and charity between man and man will promote respect for the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and hasten the achievement of "peace on earth to men of good will."

—Reprinted from The Saturday Review

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The Reader's Digest, in its November issue, appearing October 20, will contain as its "cover essay" a strong UN message from Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. This message will appear in 18 editions in a total of 12 languages and 18,000,000 copies having a world total "readership" of 65,000,000 people. This will constitute the greatest audience ever reached by one publication on UN affairs in a single issue.

Pocket Reference on the United Nations

Published by the League of Women Voters of the U. S., a particularly useful 12 page pocket size guide which concisely tells purposes, structure, cost, and what the UN has accomplished as well as pending problems. 5¢ per copy; 25 copies for $1.00; and 200 copies for $6.75.

Issues Before the Tenth General Assembly

Published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, this 160 page summary includes such diversified problems as disarmament, peaceful uses of atomic energy, Charter Review and others. Designed for discussion groups and for all persons interested in world affairs, single copies are 25¢ each with discounts on quantity orders.