

The White Ribbon

For God, and Home, and Humanity.

Thought for the Month. . .

"Leave God to order all thy ways,
And trust in Him, whate'er betide;
Thou'll find Him in the evil days
Thy All-Sufficient strength and Guide:
Who trusts in God's unchanging Love,
Builds on the Rock, that nought can move."
—G. C. Neumark.

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There is No Short Cut to Peace

By ARNE SUNDE (Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations)

If you ask a hundred different persons, "What is the price you would pay for peace?" you would probably get nearly as many different answers. I think this is significant. In troubled times, and ours are very troubled indeed, the yearning for peace dominates all thinking, and the price that we are willing to pay for peace varies greatly from person to person.

Many feel that no price is too high to pay for peace. Others feel that even peace can be bought too dearly, and that liberty and justice should not be sacrificed even on this altar.

You will find those who think that peace is something that can be brought about through a simple formula and that, consequently, the troubled state of the world today is due to the failure of the statesmen to recognise and apply this formula. Others think that peace can be achieved through the simple expedient of making the Great Powers meet frequently and speak frankly to each other.

A little reflection would convince anybody, however, that the common longing for peace is generally not accompanied by sober and rational consideration of the problems of implementation. There is, of course, **no short cut to peace**. The road is long and troublesome. It calls for maximum efforts at each single step. It calls for mobilisation of our total resources of physical strength, of patience, endurance and determination, and of firm tolerance. It calls for abolishment of prejudices and for clarity in regard to our intentions and purposes.

We all know that it is fairly easy to declare in abstract terms our determination to seek peace. But it is vastly more difficult to apply principles, than to declare them. Nevertheless, that is the way we test our principles and prove, or disprove, their value. This is exactly what we have been doing for almost five years in the United Nations, the main peace-making organ of the world today. Have the results justified the efforts? Have we been prepared to pay the price that peace demands?

There is war in Korea today, waged by members of the United Nations against aggressors who broke the peace in order to achieve ends of their own. Is Korea, then, a failure for the peace-making endeavour? Many people have asserted that it is. But I assert that the problem is not as simple as that. Korea would certainly have

been a failure for U.N.O. if it had shirked its responsibility, when the aggression occurred there, and if it had submitted quietly to the use of force. Fortunately that did not happen. . . .

We all know that war is not something which comes out of the blue from beyond the control of human beings, like an earthquake or a flood. The causes of war are all human, and they must be dealt with by human beings. And, surely, the abolishment of the causes of war is a vital task in the process of peace-making. No one will dispute the wisdom of a policy aiming at making the use of force unnecessary. But it is not just as easy to define and apply a policy. It is always easier to get popular support for a policy which shows immediate results, than for a long-range policy aiming at bringing results in a distant future, where they may not be recognised as such.

The basic causes of war are to be found in the conditions under which people live and work. People who feel that they have nothing to lose but everything to gain by use of force, are easy victims for ruthless and ambitious rulers who want to exploit the masses in order to attain their own political ends. There can, for instance, be no doubt that there is a close connection between the century-long misery in which the peoples of Asia have been living, and are still living, and the fact that Asia today is perhaps the most dangerous area for world peace. The Korean war is a typical example of how human misery and discontent can be turned into an aggressive force which jeopardises international security.

True enough, ambitious rulers cannot be reformed by friendly words and generous acts. But they can be deprived of their means to commit evil deeds. We must realise that human misery is the war-maker's best ally, and this ally must be destroyed.

The free world has vast economic resources which are now being mobilised into military preparedness. But it is just as important to mobilise our resources for an economic crusade in the large backward areas of the world, where famine and misery are still the masters of men. The cost in money and goods of such a crusade will be high, but it will be very small compared to the cost of modern rearmament, and if it can help to avoid war, it will be a very moderate price indeed. There is no short cut to peace.