

**GENERAL
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The Delegate for Honduras (H.E. Dr. Tiburcio Carias, Jr.) has asked that text of the speech which he was unavoidably prevented from making when the Report of the Third Committee was discussed in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 12 February 1946, should be circulated for the information of members.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For some of us who have had the privilege of observing at first hand the stupendous work accomplished by the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations, that Conference was not merely a cold Protocol, but on the contrary, a period of serious action dedicated to the task of assuring the juridical normality of a world in danger of suffering permanently from a noxious cynicism; in that Council there existed the wisest purposes for the success of a new conception of constructive and vigilant internationalism, the directives for a humanity capable of appreciating the prodigious evolution imposed by the course of events. Nevertheless, during the sessions of the General Assembly, many other problems have been dealt with objectively, problems which still obscure the perspective peace, and endeavours have been dedicated to the erection of a more firm and just universal concept. But notwithstanding this, the great public is wondering anxiously, and frequently inquires, whether the emphasis which was placed on culture and morals in our deliberations, has not been lost to sight in the welter of cold and elaborate phrases of juridical procedure, and in the dialectic precision of the different committees.

It is dangerous and futile to give too much importance to mere sentimentality in the consideration of complex questions, where cold reasoning should, on the contrary, predominate; but it is owing to the strange and sad privilege of having lived so fully and intimately the European tragedies, of having observed the pathetic scenes of exodus, the desperate acts occasioned by anger and powerlessness, that I am urged to the duty of affirming that, in order that morality should prevail, it is indispensable to purify cruel realities by means of superior action. For this reason, and at the risk of reiterating what is obvious, and justified only by the results produced by hard fact and not mere fantasy, I would like to believe that, in spite of the gigantic

brutality of a past so recent, the present is certainly a terrifying problem of disequilibrium, but, however, not one of retrogression.

I trust that in this Organization there will persist the conviction that as an elemental step, we must strive sincerely towards the re-establishment of universal confidence, for, as misery renders impossible the brilliance of many human qualities, so fear appears to be the stimulus of much, that is ignoble in the minds of men.

I hope that the peoples who united so instinctively in the face of a common mortal danger, will be capable of inspiring by their example a world-wide spirit of emulation, and of demonstrating an even greater capacity for sacrifice for the infinitely more noble ideals of peace. Then the weak countries would believe in the value of loyalty to the extreme expedient that the usefulness of the United Nations depends on the true understanding of the great powers. They would believe too, that, in the interdependence between states, the eminence of power acquired by the great nations would cease to be a motive for fear, but would be converted indeed, into a source of universal happiness. So the perplexities and doubts which in the past prevented the creative impulses of very noble statesmen from being translated into realities will be eliminated for ever, and the generous precepts contained in the copious documents will not be catalogued as vain and cruel rhetoric formulae. I believe that, at least, in this cosmic age, my modest intervention may contribute to the general attempt to set aside spirits oppressed by an accumulation of archaic complexities, and to establish the norms of a civilization, every day more pleasant, which, in itself will be no accident, but will spring from a deep political and human urge. In the telling yet simple words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, "We shall strive for perfection", for I think we may agree that the idealists of today are the practical men of tomorrow.

A great deal of perspicacity is not necessary to appreciate that in the present tremendous upheaval, when the most tragic happenings seem to be simultaneous throughout the world, it is an inescapable duty to raise ourselves, with a feeling of profound destiny, above domestic preoccupations and to embrace the superior role of citizenship of the world, demonstrating with a typical instance of enlightened self-interest, that in accelerating the advent of prosperity between neighbours, we are effectively benefiting entire mankind.

Therefore, and with all humility, and confident that in these unprecedented circumstances it is better to be accused of imprudence rather than to languish in complete inertia, allow me to conclude by emphasizing the following points:-

1. To endeavour to consolidate latent and dispersed factors and to dedicate them to the supreme creation of a system of international consciousness, capable of making available to all countries the full benefits of civilization.
2. To procure a coherent and adequate international system of education which will inspire seeking and alert minds, creators of more serenity and collective responsibility, on the lines offered by the decisions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
3. To insist, above all, in rendering less manifest or frequent, the conflicts created between economic international policies and national urgencies.
4. To intensify communications, and to encourage in the press and on the radio, mutual respect and appreciation.
5. Not to be discouraged by the melancholy contemplation of frustrated illusions.
6. To stimulate, everywhere, sufficient and serene capacity to

adapt ourselves to special circumstances, and to give vigorous style to the human element, which could be a perpetual factor of international happiness.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that in the deliberations of all the United Nations Organizations, we can never lay too much stress on the aspect of education and culture. As I said on another occasion "Today, when peoples are capable of repudiating emphatically humiliating psychological obstacles, now when the most celebrated anthropologists ridicule the colossal arrogance of racial superiority and are agreed in affirming that there is no scientific discernible connection between racial and cultural attributes, this is the propitious moment to aim at the highest excellence of mind, and to discover the best manner of ensuring that the sum of individual effort finds the most fertile expression." For the young countries desirous of satisfying their striving for glory and justice, nothing will be more encouraging than the certainty of converting rapidly their scanty populations into compact social entities which, for their quality, would be more apt for the fulfilment of greater loyalties and higher tasks.

Thus would the world become a field of ceaseless productive energy, and the more elegant for its spirituality; or, at the very least, would it become a reality in which, instead of abundant promises of rights, there would exist the austere force of economic and social justice.