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TALK RECORDED BY SECRETARY-GENERAL DAG HAMMARSKJOLD FOR DELIVERY  
DURING THE INTERMISSION OF UN CONCERT BY THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA, SUNDAY, 25 OCTOBER 1953

The United Nations is a forum for diplomatic and political negotiations transcending the national or bilateral sphere. The Organization is a tool in the hands of governments and peoples wishing to cooperate in order to further an improvement in economic and social conditions throughout the world. It is an attempt to organize the community of nations in defence of peace by measures of collective security.

The United Nations represents all those important and eminently practical things. But it is also something more, something that cannot properly be described by a mere enumeration of functions and purposes. The Charter of the United Nations, which was <sup>ratified</sup> on 24 October 1945, makes the Organization a symbol of ideas, and it should be recognized as an attempt to translate into action a faith--the faith which once inspired a Beethoven in the Ninth Symphony to his great profession of freedom, the brotherhood of men, and a world of harmony. This is why music, and what only music can express, may well have its honored place in the celebration of United Nations Week.

In his Symphony of the World, Paul Hindemith has tried to express in the universal language of music the ancient belief in a basic harmony of the Universe. We find this belief in old India, we meet it again in Greece, we are familiar with its echoes in the writings of the prophets of Israel. Let me quote here a later author whose words seem to me to be a fitting comment on this concert.

About 1635, Thomas Browne wrote in his Religio Medici: "There is musick where ever there is harmony, order, proportion: and thus far we may maintain the musick of the Spheres; for those well ordered motions, and regular paces, though they give no sound on to to the ear yet to the understanding they strike a note most full of harmony." - - - In music "there is something of Divinity more than

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the ear discovers: it is an Hieroglyphical and shadowed lesson of the whole World, and and creatures of God; such a melody to the ear as the whole World, well understood, would afford the understanding. In brief, it is a sensible fit of that harmony which intellectually sounds in the ears of God."

These words yield their full meaning, reveal their human implications, when we add to them this further quotation from Browne: "There is no man alone, because every man is a Microcosm, and carries the whole World about him."

In words that are no better than Browne's, but perhaps closer to our common language of today: Behind the simple harmonies of music, which may be grasped by our senses, we see dimly a greater harmony—a harmony of the whole World—that should resound also in the small world of man, in the limited sphere of our own life.

We are far from Browne's simple concept of the world. We may find it difficult to share his humble faith. But can we escape his conclusions? His is a hope for harmony in the world of men that should be valid for all times. The demand this hope places upon us may even have a deeper significance for us than for our predecessors. There is no man alone. There is no escape from the duty to create harmony in that microcosm in which we, every one of us, are at the center. Whatever the development of the concepts of the Universe, whatever the changes in our faiths and creeds, our responsibility in this respect has certainly not decreased since the time when Browne wrote, or since the old days when the first dreams about a world of harmony took shape in the East.

Thus, an old philosophy of the Universe and the music which it has inspired, and to which we have listened, are linked to essential elements in our own personal lives—but likewise in our lives as men and women responsible to our neighbours, to society and to history.

It is not presumptuous to say that those elements are present in the background also of the work which is carried on—or should be carried on—in and by the United Nations. In our preoccupation with the outward forms, the established procedures, the publicity, and the immediate issues which attract our attention from day to day, we may tend to forget that at the very basis of this Organization there is the will of all peoples to create a world of harmony. The United Nations in its fundamental purpose is one of the means by which it is possible for all of us, starting with and in our own lives, to work for that harmony in the world of man which our forefathers were striving for as an echo of the music of the Universe