

WORLD PEACE AND UNESCO

By BLAS ABELLA

"Peace on earth, good will to men."

—Bible.

The desire for world peace is not a new thing. It began way back in 1918 when World War I ended—when democracy demonstrated its triumph over the tyranny of totalitarian forms of government. For a time after the armistice on November 11, 1918, the world was calm and safe for democracy. In spite of the provisions of the armistice to forestall future aggressions and keep the world in peace, some countries vied with one another with democracy hanging on the balance. World War II became inevitable.

Realizing the need for preserving world peace, President Roosevelt and V. M. Molotov, People Commissar of Foreign Affairs of Russia, in 1942 discussed not only cooperation in the war, but also the problem of maintaining peace, freedom and security after the war.

In October, 1943, the foreign ministers of the United States, Great Britain, Russia and the Chinese Ambassador to Russia met at Moscow and agreed on "the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date, a general international organization based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States." The United States Senate pledged to join in establishing an international authority with power to

prevent aggression and to preserve the peace of the world.

At Teheran, (The Big Three), Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin, decided that "all United Nations may establish peace which will command the good will of the overwhelming mass of the peoples of the world . . ." In 1944, representatives of the United States, England, and the Soviet Union and later China met at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington and drafted proposals for a world organization and in April, 1945, the United Nations drafted its purposes foremost among which is to maintain an international peace and security.

Then came the UNESCO—United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—whose members declare that since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed. They believe that the differences and inequalities among peoples may be ironed out not by political and economic arrangements among government entities which do not guarantee lasting peace among different peoples of the world, but with something other than agreements. To the UNESCO, the solution and the best solution is mutual respect and understanding among men and races. To them, the solution is giving all men, irrespective of race and color, full and equal opportunities for

education in the search for truth. A free exchange of ideas among peoples should be the dominating element in the education of the people. The sovereignty of all nations shall be respected and the people's rights to choose their own form of governments shall be recognized. There shall be an abandonment of the use of force by any nation as an instrument of national policy and a complete disarmament of aggressor nations. Increased facilities in the means of communication between people of one nation with one another and between peoples of different countries should be the goal in promoting better and mutual understanding and knowledge among them. The different peoples, through the educational, scientific and cultural relationship, may attain that objective of international peace among mankind.

To UNESCO belongs the credit of laying the foundations of world-wide unity and peace. Her aim to establish a world citizenship should be upheld. Every nation should lend a hand in supporting the principles of the UNESCO in her efforts to establish close re-

lationship among world peoples regardless of race and by making them enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms inherent to the democratic ways of life.

At this time of the year, more than any other time, for the sake of Christian love for peace of our people, we should merge all the many loyalties into a common concept, the One-World concept. We should drive home into the hearts of all peoples the idea of peace as one and indivisible. From the minds of men, let us hope that in the very near future, the best defense for peace shall be conceived. Finally, let us all hope that irrespective of party differences and suspicions among nations, we can yet be one and united for His sake. Let us have no World War III.

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