Thank you for your letter of May 25th. I have had your mistake drawn to my attention. I hope this does not interfere with your plans. To be sure, I have the best interests of the firm in mind.

Under the present charter, it must be worked first.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt  
Washington Square West  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Only today was your February 25th mention of United World Federalists in "My Day" called to my attention, or I should have written this letter long ago.

I am delighted that the young man on the Boston train brought our program to your attention, but am afraid that he gave you some misconceptions about our ideas. As stated in our official policy, "we will work primarily to strengthen the United Nations into a world government..." This can be done in two ways: through amendments to the Charter (as provided in Article 108), or through a general conference to review the Charter (as provided in Article 109).

A "peoples' world constitutional convention" is the project of the World Republic group in Evanston, Illinois, the one membership world government organization in this country that did not join to form United World Federalists last February at Asheville. The reason for their remaining a separate organization was their belief that such a peoples' convention was practical. United World Federalists agrees with you that it would not be.

I am sorry that you found our policy difficult to understand, and would like to explain it further.

"We believe that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of justice, of law, of order -- in short, of government and the institutions of government; that world peace can be created and maintained only under world law, universal and strong enough to prevent armed conflict between nations."

By this, UWF takes exception to the view that the causes of war are merely economic and social. Economic and social differences are the cause of conflicting interests. However, such conflicting interests become war only when they are settled outside of a framework of law. Such differences exist in any community--in New York City, for example--but under law, they are settled peaceably. We would like to see a framework of law set up for the world community.

"Therefore, while endorsing the efforts of the United Nations to bring about a world community favorable to peace, we will work primarily to strengthen the United Nations into a world government of limited powers adequate to prevent war and
having direct jurisdiction over the individual in those matters within its competence."

A limited world government is a government with well-defined and specific powers. In a sense, any government is limited. The world government we envisage would have only such powers as are necessary to prevent war. Other powers would be reserved to the member nations.

Direct jurisdiction over the individual is one of the necessary powers of government, as opposed to agreement between nations. It always amazes me a little when people talk of "enforcing" the decisions of the U.N. If part of the U.N. has to use armed force against another nation or nations, that's war, whether it's called "enforcement" or not.

The enforcement of law is a different matter. Laws are enforced against individuals, not against whole cities or states or nations. Our own laws are a good example. If the mayor of New York murdered someone, the whole city wouldn't be punished. Similarly, if the United Nations is to control the production of atomic bombs, it must be able, first, to set up laws, second, to punish the individuals who might break them—not be forced to make war against the entire nation in which the violation of law takes place.

I do hope that this is clear. If you have the time, I should appreciate it a very great deal if you would write and tell me just what you think of the world government idea and of our movement in particular. I think sometimes we are overcome with our own logic and tend to forget the views of those we are trying to convince.

Very sincerely yours,

Katherine Fox
Katherine Fox
Public Relations