World Federation of UN Associations 1947-52

## WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

New York Office:

45 East 65 Street New York 21, N. Y. European Office:

19 Avenue Kleber Paris 16, France

### TO ALL OFFICERS AND ASSOCIATIONS

March 25, 1947

Enclosed are copies of the addresses made by

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights at the UN

Mr. Louis Dolivet, International Editor of "United Nations World" Mr. John A. F. Ennals, Secretary General of the World Federation

at the dinner given by the World Federation of United Nations Associations through its American affiliate, the American Association for the United Nations, on February 14 in honor of the delegates to the Conference of International Organizations held at Lake Success, New York, February 10 to 14 and sponsored by the Department of Public Information of the UN.

The conference afforded us the opportunity of meeting other international organizations whose programs include the support of the United Nations, and efforts will be made to broaden the acquaintanceships made there into cooperative, working relationships.

Also enclosed is a re-print of the article "Public Opinion and the United Nations," written for Free World by Mr. Jan Masaryk, President of the World Federation. Copies of this article may be obtained free in any desired quantity from the New York office of the Federation.

Attached is a recently revised list of officers, associations and preparatory committees.

### PLEASE NOTE:

The European offices of the World Federation have moved from London to

19 Avenue Kleber Paris 16, France WCRLD FFDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS 45 East 65 Street New York City 21

Address given by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights Dinn r February 14, 1947

I am very happy to come to this dinner tonight because these non-governmental organizations that have been meeting these last few days are the brdige between the United Nations and the people, and it is through you that the United Nations will be made to succeed. We know quite well that there are many, many people throughout the world who hope that the United Nations will do something very remarkable. Some of their remember the League of Nations, and they feel that the League of Nations laid a foundation; but somehow it didn't accomplish what the people hoped it would, and another war came, and now, dgain, the people throughout the world are hoping. I think it is only through the work of the non-governmental organizations that the people are going to come to understand how they, the people of the world, can make any organization of this kind fulfil its objectives.

I do think we have come a long way. I have now been to four meetings, twice as a delegate from the United States to the General Assembly, and this is the second meeting that I have just finished on Human Rights. The first was a nuclear meeting, just to plan and give our plans to the Economic and Social Council, and then we called a meeting of the full commission, the first meeting of the full Commission on Human Rights, which has just come to an end. I don't think many of us in the nuclear commission really thought that the task of actually writing a bill of rights would be undertaken quite as soon as we have succeeded in doing it. Undertaking the task of writing the bill is only the first step, and I must say when I listened to my two colleagues, Dr. Chang, and Dr. Malik, I felt that I had a very small role to play. My role was the role of just the ordinary person who has to understand what the learned people write, and so, when Dr. Chang said, "This must be an historic document. It must be literature, It must remesent the philosophies of all the peoples from the early days of time and yet it must be of today," I said, "That is a little difficult combination," but revertheless we may be able to do something which will be the first step along the road to giving the people of the world a hope that some day they will have the reality of human rights which can only exist in a world where confidence between peoples exists and war is done away with. It is just the first step. It is hampered by a great many things. One of the the World Federation of Trade Unions spoke about - the difficulty of finding people t really do the work on all the commission of the United Nations. In some ways that is very difficult for many rations. In another way I think it has an advantage because you find yourself meeting with the same people, and the more you work together, the more you learn. I think probably those of us who meet in one meeting after the other are getting to learn not so much about each other but about our backgrounds, our customers, our various countries. I know for instance, in the Commission on Human Rights, that I have learned something new each time.

Of course, it is true that among us there are very basic differences, and a good many people bring out the differences. They bring them out because where there are differences, people have to ask questions to get at a basis of understanding. I will cite you one example. We were discussing in one meeting the meaning of freedom, and our Russian colleague asked a question. It was an honest question. Words mean different things to different peoples. There are basic differences in our nations. But one of our papers picked it up and said that he was opposed to freedom. He never said he was opposed to freedom. He was trying to find out what our concept was and to explain to us what his concept was. He (over)

Mrs. Franklin D. Roos evelt

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was quite right to do it. Our press was quite wrong in picking out the wrong thing - not telling the whole story, not telling it accurately.

If this United Nations work is to succeed, we must seek agreement. We can not always pick out the differences.

And then, of course, we are representatives, those of us who serve on these commissions and sub-commissions, of our governments, and, as representatives of our governments, we sometimes have to do some funny things. I found myself saying one day that my government believed in a certain principle but nevertheless on this occasion we were not living up to it. This is a rather amusing thing to find yourself doing. But those are things that will change as we go on. Working together is the great thing, and if you in the voluntary organizations will go out and explain that this isn't a finished thing; peace doesn't come and human rights don't come just be meeting a few times; they come by daily working — working together until we do make bridges. You are the bridges that take us into the homes of people, so that they will make their representatives actually feel their desires. If they do, this will succeed, and it will only succeed if the peoples do the work.

WORLD PROFINCTION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS
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Address given by

John 6. Ennils, Supposery-Bereral of Charlest Paderal of the

gr. United Nations Associations for 1979

Dinner, Fournary 16, 1967

My first outy on behalf of the World Federation of Third Mattons Associations is to welcome to this dimmen our distinguished glands, and of wan suiched guests at this table and also at so meny tables in Williamone Tribles we much mame them so that we might show the present which a classifier the more than here done in the past and the work which those are post dimensionable cause of the United Nations.

It is appropriate that this mesting should be mealest aver by a journalist who is just starting in the UNITED NATIONS CRLD magazing to the trips can bented Nations to the people of the world; I lave so type of purity the spiras of our meeting in the part for aver, that there has been a operational absorbe of correspondents from the press callerying the seconds end square as partiagned as for the press callerying the seconds so that one partiagned to me to the press callerying the seconds dispersions. He applicant to me to take the meeting operation of the Security Countly Research. It has to distribute an entire operation appropriate graph for the meeting which is gaine as reverse infinitely none; happened there are right to be second to the meting which is gaine as reverse infinitely none; happened there are right; potentially he was right. It is for its to see whether or gaving her the meeting potentially he was right. It is for its to see whether or gaving her are right;

We must thank Mr. Orrick endichts department for sudvitting there have done to make this configurate a stocess. Let the elitiants stocess of the conterence depends upon us. It is in our family. This heating which is taking place have the week can be induced the present possible importance. We see in the Assembly a few books ago that in spite of the differences between the propess of the world will spite at the differences of background and individually of language and insolutions with retignes and character the background patterns. This assembly in heatform late that is consistent in the fairness of the deliver of the fairness of the scale has a seemed to be an individual to the fairness of the scale has a seemed to be a seemed.

We have represented here the 100 million or semiled working of the sorld.
We have represented here the 35 millions or semiled top between and advermers of the world, he have represented here the historia world, the world of wealth we have represented here \$50 million organised your nations world. Temper that you doughties. We have represented here the some of the world. Temper that is more important than inviting also. The have represented here to the world. Temper that the countries of the world. We have represented in our mist married the religious faiths of the world. We have represented in the presentations operating in many lands. Temper and gentlement it is nearly a polyhist which have probably never mervicually began on our mrated in one place of one time.

If we are the true representatives of the organisations which we represent, our work is not finished togisht. If we really be live in the fledge which we have given to the United Extince, we shall return to our organizations and that every single sumber of our organizations in event copy or the World will devote himself and herself to working and fighting for the Whited Nations wherever he is living. We shall see that through our magazines, through or

specifies through our talks in rough one majings the limited become in through a specified the control of the c

We have here to the harder big not ential for building up not only into metion cooperation but cooperation in our countries. In contrast, the securification to the countries are on our work, is we take best one passage to our translations, to the countries which we come, in a see months that burst may else that are up to the building one of the hundred organizations represented here stands for the united hatton; the gramments of the world may know that became will they also then to charge their foreign policy. They will know that they are boing noticed by symbols at reoptes of the world.

Ladies and sentiment, we have here at the payvice of the United Nations a force of 500 million scopie of the marks. If we can forget sundifferences, if we can work together to achieve the mile which we says presented to achieve toda.

John Eanal s.

aftermoon; it say wall have been as great as the masting of the waters in the mastery met in New York in November and December. It was well pass down into mistory as peing one of the greenest meetings that has even seen held is the mistory of the world but then, and rule gay bot. It is in our hands. This in our hands happened but then, and rule gay bot it is in our hands to achieve all they are never the between it to only we have the possessial to only we there there is no believe in, are somewhat the law the possessial in any somewhat the two believes in, are somewhat that the poppering has been release and we the Weiter Nations will not have been placed in value.

WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS 45 East 65 Street New York City 21

Address given by Mr. Louis Dolivet, International Editor of "United Nations World" Dinner, February 14, 1947

The other day when the first session of the Voluntary Organizations opened at the United Nations, I could not help but think of another great international event in which international organizations played a considerable part, namely, the opening of the Disarmament Conference at the League of Nations in 1932. Some, I think, who are in this room, were present on that day, when men and woman from about 35 countries came with petitions signed by millions of people begging the powerful governments of that time to undertake at last a decisive effort for the limitation and control of armaments. I remember that night there was a reception given by M. Tardieu, at which most cynical remarks were heard, uttered by many representatives for powerful governments, saying that "Private organizations have made us lose a lot of time today." I wish that the governments of that time had listened to those of time today." I wish that the governments of today who are controlling the destinities of mankind will listen to what the organizations have been saying the destinities of mankind will listen to what the United Nations. It hink in these private meetings held in cooperation with the United Nations. It hink in these private meetings held in cooperation with the United Nations. It hink in these private meetings held in cooperation with the United Nations. It hink despite the fact that in 1932 the number of organizations, ranging from churches to trade unions and to verious social and economic groups, were unable to prevent the disaster - were unable to impose, by the sheer weight of their numbers, a reduction and limitation of armaments, today things have changed and something has come out very strongly from the meeting of the Voluntary Organizations. In Geneva they were almost completely on the outside. They were some kind of necessary evil which the governments, smiling politely but superficially, had to receive and to see from time to time.

I feel, sincerely and deeply, that we, the private organizations, are in a better position. We are somehow part of the United Nations. There is something in the Charter and in the spirit of the new governments which have emerged out of this disaster; there is something in the promises which have been made by the Allied Powers during this war which has permitted us to rally around our flag 1600 million human beings, and to reach one of the greatest military victories in history, which has still remained alive despite the fact that we h we lost so much of the spirit of greatness in this war. I feel that the Secretariat and the various organs of the United Nations are really and sincerely attempting to make of the private organizations of the earth, big and small - of all the private citizens who want to support this effort - something more than an outside organizations. I think that our sense of participation can find an immense satisfaction in the fact that in the United Nations Organization everywhere the voice of private organizations and of private public opinion is being heard. I believe that if we can overcome in the present circumstances the difficulties which are still making so difficult the work of the United Nations, one day there will be the creation of that great assembly of peoples which I am sure will, if not replace, at least will implement, the present General Assembly, composed only or representatives of governments, and from this point of view I think that the meeting of the voluntary organizations was full of dignity and maturity. It was amazing to see people who had no official titles, who were not ambassadors or political representatives of their countries, or foreign ministers, but who were simply representatives of large or small groups, show such a spirit of cooperation, a spirit of maturity, a height of moral views which would have made it possible for most of them, if not for all, to sit in the very official meetings of the Assembly and of the Security Council - perhaps to bring something more of the desire to succeed than sometimes some statesmen seem to do.

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Louis Dolivet

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Therefore, I think that was a good beginning, and I am very happy tonight that we are able to examine once more the results achieved, and, above all, to determine again which are the best methods for private citizens, for the citizens of the 55 nations who, I think, are more and more accepting a supplementary loyalty to their national loyalty, one which is not in contradiction of our own national beliefs but one which is like a prolongation and extension of our beliefs, which is like the growth of their own patriotism - loyalty toward the one community as a whole, represented by the United Nations Organizati

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"The representatives of these Associations have not yet signed the Statutes of the Federation.

# PUBLIC OPINION and THE UNITED NATIONS

Reprinted from FREE WORLD MAGAZINE DECEMBER, 1946 Vol. 12, No. 5

# PUBLIC OPINION and THE UNITED NATIONS

by JAN MASARYK

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia, Delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations, President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

I N these post-war days of almost continuous international conferences, Foreign Ministers have little time for outside activities. For years, many of us have been looking forward to two weeks' holiday in the sun, away from the war and its aftermath. So far there has been little time for either holiday or, in my case, for music. We are busy-in London, in Paris, in New York and in Prague. But I accepted the presidency of the World Federation of United Nations Associations because I believe fervently in the United Nations Organization which we are building up and, above all, because I believe in the necessity of the people of the world ensuring that their hopes are not disappointed. I wish I had more time to devote to this part of Lake "Success."

When the United Nations Assembly met in London to set up the Organization which millions all over the world are hoping will bring them peace and security, the results were encouraging, but those of us who took part in that conference were conscious that only the foundations had been laid. The problems before the United Nations were so many and so complicated that some were afraid they might prove too much for the young Organization.

Today, the delegates attending the General Assembly at Flushing Meadows or sitting on committees at Lake Success are a little more optimistic. There seems to be a sense of optimism and cooperation here that was not apparent in either London or at the Peace Conference in Paris. I feel the achievements of the past six months have so far justified the hopes placed in the United Nations, and the long list of items on the agenda of the Assembly has shown that the nations of the world look upon the Assembly as the focal point for the solution of international problems.

Should I touch wood when I speak thus? While the United Nations is already a solid organization with enormous possibilities, it is still very young indeed. Fifty-four nations with different social structures and different religions, of different race and color and speaking different languages can hardly be expected to be unanimous on the varied problems before them, veto or no veto. Certainly all agree in their longing for peace but only with time can they come to understand each other's approach to the same ideal.

PERSONALLY, I believe that the Organization which we have set up is one of which we may be permanently proud before long. But as Mr. Trygve Lie reminded us in his report to the General Assembly, "The success of the United Nations depends ultimately on the continued support of the peoples of the world. This support, in turn, must be based upon enlightened public opinion and the widest possible knowledge of the problems concerning the United Nations and the procedure used for their solution. This is true at all times, it is particularly true at times of crisis. Recognition is given to this fact in almost every chapter of the Charter and great stress is laid upon public meetings and the necessity of keeping the people fully informed on all developments." That is the task to which Assistant Secretary-General Benjamin Cohen and his Public Information Department are devoting themselves, but no one realizes more than they that public relations must mean much more than press releases and radio scripts if their task is to be achieved.

Alongside the official Public Information Department there must be an unofficial body helping the United Nations to "capture the imagination and harness the enthusiasm of the people of the world"—there must be a peoples' movement for the United Nations. That is the raison d'etre of the United Nations Associations which have been formed in twenty-four coun-

tries of the world; that is the aim of the World Federation of United Nations Associations which the national Associations set up a few months ago at a congress in Luxembourg. Some of these Associations, such as the British and American-which recently held successful United Nations Week campaigns-are already well established. Others are just beginning work. I am confident that if they can succeed in their task of rallying the people of their respective countries behind the United Nations, they will be making a big contribution toward world peace and understanding.

We in Europe remember how important has been the role of public opinion in many of the crises which have shaken our battered continent. We remember how successful was popular opposition to the Hoare-Laval Pact in 1935; we remember how the patriotism of the people of Yugoslavia overthrew the Cvetković Government which joined the Tri-partite Pact in 1941; we remember how the passive and active resistance of the peoples of Europe hindered the German war machine during the years of occupation; we remember that it was the support of public opinion behind the Red Army which saved Stalingrad and the people of the Soviet Union. Public opinion in the allied countries the world over enabled us to win the war against Nazi and Japanese imperialism. Today, in my own country of Czechoslovakia, and in other countries of Europe, popular enthusiasm in support of a program of reconstruction is achieving remarkable and outstanding results.

The United Nations would be failing in one of its fundamental tasks if it did not seek to enroll within its ranks the enthusiasm of which people the world over have shown themselves capable in battle and in reconstruction. As long as the future of the United Nations is left in the hands of a few, however capable and however sincere, the opening words of the preamble to the Charter "We the peoples" will remain a myth.

I HE League of Nations failed because in time of crisis it could not rely upon the support of the people of the world. Some governments were able to repudiate it with impunity. The United Nations, apart from starting off with the great advantage of the full backing of the two most powerful countries in the world-the United States and the Soviet Union - is an organization which, by its very Charter, goes further than the League of Nations did in building up the machinery for a united world



. . there must be a peoples' movement for the United Nations."-Jan Masaryk.

-through the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Women's Rights, and through its specialized agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, and such projects as UNESCO, ITO and PICAO. The work of the United Nations can tomorrow touch the lives of men, women and children all over the world if we do our duty.

It is the aim of the United Nations Associations to rally behind the United Nations all groups and classes of society-youth organizations, women's groups, church groups, the tradeunion movement, the cooperative movement, business clubs, intellectual societies, and all those fields of voluntary activity which make up the pattern of modern life. Support of the United Nations is one thing on which all political parties, all religions and all races in all countries can agree. Through its organization, all social groups can seek to achieve the aims for which they are striving.

Now, when the United Nations is beginning its work, we must try to build up a concept of world citizenship which will lead the man in the street the world over to look to the United Nations to help him solve his problems.



AM confident that by cooperating together in the United Nations Organization and in a united peoples movement for the United Nations we can do much to remove many of the misgivings, suspicions and misunderstandings which are so prevalent today. There are many things about the Western Hemisphere which the people of Eastern Europe do not understand, and I find that many of the conceptions which the people of America have about Europe, from Calais to Moscow, are based on ignorance rather than ill will. That is why I feel that United Nations Associations all over the world must devote their attention not only to lectures, articles and discussions on the United Nations but also to spreading information about the different countries which comprise it.

Through travel and personal contact we can remove many misunderstandings and unnecessary tensions which still exist between nations whose interests should bind them together and not keep them apart through reciprocal suspicion.

It is in this confidence in the role of public opinion in the modern world of cinema, radio and air-mail newspapers that I am devoting my energies to the work of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. As Assistant Secretary-General Henri Laugier told the first Congress of our Federation in Luxembourg "These United Nations Associations are not a luxury. They are an essential part of the United Nations and their success is essential for the success of the United Nations."

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XI

# WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

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### TO ALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

We are enclosing for your information and records a revised list of the World Federation Officers and national associations.

May we urge that you place both the European office and the American office of the World Federation on your mailing list to ensure that both offices will regularly receive copies of all material you send out?

Thank you!

Julia Stuart Liaison Secretary American Office

enc.

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(June, 1947)

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\*The representatives of these associations have not yet signed the Statutes of the Federation

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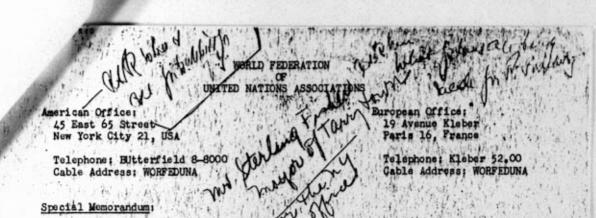
July 3, 1947

My dear Mr. Mayor:

I learn from the World Federation of United Nations Associations that you are in charge of UNITED NATIONS WEEK, for Dutchess County.

Will you be good enough to let me know what plans have been made for the City of Poughkeepsie and for Dutchess County?

Very sincerely yours,



FROM: The American Office of W.F.U.N.A

All Associations

The Second Regular Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations opens at Flushing Meadows, New York on September 16.

Last year the American Association for the United Nations organized a very successful nation-wide celebration to welcome the delegates to New York, This year it is again organizing a nation-wide UNITED NATIONS WEEK, this time with suppassion the responsibility and role of the individual in the United Nations,

UNITED NATIONS WERK starts on September 14 and continues through September 20, with different programs every day indicating how the individual in every sphere of life plays an important part in the United Nations.

We would like to see UNITED NATIONS WEEK celebrated internationally on a world-wide scale, with every United Nations Association in the world spearheading the international celebration in each country. Public interest and public opinionare the backbone of the United National. The opening of the General Assembly affords an excellent apportunity to stimulate public interest and rally every individual to take part in the maintenance of the machinery of page — the United Nations.

The opening of the General Assembly might also serve as an excellent means of building up or stimulating activity in the United Nations Association in your country, since your Association could call upon the support and cooperation of other national organizations and every citizen in your country to participate in some way.

We are presenting herewith a brief outline of the American Association's plan for UNITED NATIONS WEEK. This plan is designed for community celebration, so that each city and town can organize the best way to celebrate UNITED NATIONS WEEK and simply call upon your national office or committee for help and suggestions and material.

It may be that the American Association's plan is not suitable in its entirety for the conditions and culture of your country. We feel, however, that it will give you an idea of how such a national celebration can be arranged and carried out. The needs of your country may require an entirely different approach, but there may be several ideas which your association could elaborate upon.

If it does not seem feasible for your association to plan a UNITED NATIONS WEEK, this year, may we suggest that you plan some special activity which can be conducted on a nation-wide basis to mark the opening of the General Assembly on September 16, and to point up the individual's part in the United Nations. It could be a radio

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We would like to see UNITED NATIONS NEW colebrated internativials wide ecals with every united National Association in the ways and international pale practic in sagin ordinary. Following the practic in sagin ordinary. Following the same are the packages of the up international an excellent separativity in a same analysis in a sast and individual to take part in the maintenance of the machinery of United Nations.

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broadcast, supported by newspaper articles and publicity, or special proclamations throughout the country, call attention to the fact that the General Assembly is meeting. Such a celebration could lay the foundation for a larger celebration next year.

### PLANNING UNITED NATIONS WEEK

The plan outlined below is only a suggestion. Even though conditions in your country are different from those in the United States, we are sure many of these ideas are adaptable.

If you would like to have more complete details as to how these activities are being carried out in the United States; please write to the American Office of the World Federation, at 45 East 65 Street, New York City 21, USA.

- 1. Set up a national committee which will devise a specific and detailed plan on how to celebrate United Nations Week, and what activities will be carried out each day of the week.
- 2. The committee should seek the cooperation of as many other organizations and groups as possible labor unions, civic organizations, women's clubs, men's clubs, church and religious organizations, farm groups, nationality groups, student and youth groups, political parties, schools and colleges, public and civic officers. They should be asked to help in the planning of activities, in distributing literature to their membership, help supply speakers, take part in public ceremonies, help make contacts for the committee with the press and radio.
- 3. Ask the large stores to arrange window displays on the United Nations or to exhibit United Nations posters. Ask museums and public libraries and schools to do the same, showing the costumes, art, literature and music of the many nations in the United Nations. Ask bookstores to arrange displays on literature about the United Nations and the countries who are part of it.
- 4. Arrange for the showing of films on the United Nations in schools, club meetings, special meetings. Try to get the cinema houses to show special "short subjects" on the UN. The Public Information Department of the UN has an excellent library of films on the various organs of the UN.
- 5. Arrange for special radio broadcasts on the United Nations. Check to see when the meetings of the General assembly will be broadcast and see that the time is publicized. Broadcast the music of other countries.
- 6. Ask the newspapers to cooperate by publicizing the fact that it is UN Week and to publish special articles on the background and accomplishments of the UN.
- 7. Ask the radio stations to cooperate by putting on speakers, having musical programs illustrating the music of the various nations, re-broadcasting parts of outstanding UN meetings, publicizing the hours that UN programs from the UN itself are broadcast.
- 8. Arrange for a concert of music of the United Nations.
- 9. Special religious obervances and coremonies can be planned.
- 10. Select an appropriate slogan and design a button for people to wear that week. The American Association is using the following slogan: "There's a YOU

- 11. Ask the various public officials of your country such as mayors or governors to issue special proclamations calling attention to the celebration.
- 12. Ask businessmen to cooperate by publicizing the fact that it is United Nations Week in their advertisements, on trolleys, buses, delivery trucks, public plades, railroad trains, theatres, restaurants, etc.

And if you need help or special information, write to the American Office of the World Federation!

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