

# Trygve Lie *speaks*

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As Secretary-General of the United Nations, Trygve Lie is in a strategic position. Responsible to all member governments and their people rather than to any nation, he is the top ranking international civil servant. He has used this pivotal post intelligently, impartially, courageously, and creatively. He has been criticized from all quarters, but has nevertheless gained the respect and confidence of nearly all of the men and women closely associated with the U. N.

Trygve Lie was born on July 16, 1896 in Oslo, Norway. At 15 he was secretary of the local health insurance company; at 16 president of a branch of the Labor Party. Nevertheless he found time to complete his law degree at Oslo University and to ski, skate, wrestle, and play tennis. In 1919 he became assistant to the secretary of the Norwegian Labor Party, then legal adviser to the Trade Union Federation (1922-35), and executive secretary of the Labor Party (1926). When labor came into power in 1935, he became Minister of Justice. At the time of the German Occupation, he was Minister of Trade, Industry, Shipping, and Fishing. Escaping to London with other cabinet members, he became Foreign Minister in 1941.

At the United Nations conference in San Francisco in 1945 he was chairman of the Norwegian delegation. On February 1, 1946 he was elected Secretary General of the U. N. and in 1951 his term was extended for three years.

As a champion of One World he speaks to the two billion and more inhabitants of the earth:

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## **ON THE DESIRES OF ALL PEOPLES . . .**

“International peace and security—friendly relations—respect for equal rights—self-determination—human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, and religion—harmonizing the actions of nations—these words of the United Nations Charter express the most deeply felt desires of peoples all over the world. They are the words that express the desires of people of every religious faith, every political belief, every social order, every cultural tradition, and every stage of economic development from the most backward to the most advanced.”

## **ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND WORLD ORDER . .**

“I ask that you keep constantly in mind that the United Nations represents nothing less than an attempt to establish a new world order.

That is the most tremendous, the most difficult kind of undertaking open to mankind.”

## **ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND PEACE . . .**

“ . . . The United Nations has become the chief force that holds the world together against all the conflicting strains and stresses that are pulling it apart. The United Nations has interposed law and human decency and the processes of conciliation and co-operation between the world's peoples and the naked, lawless use of power. The United Nations has continued to stand for brotherhood in the midst of all the voices that talk of national policy in terms of military strategy and tactics—as if the building of peace were a matter of offensives and counter-offensives, of break-throughs and infiltrations, of blockades and ideological Maginot-Lines.”

"More and more the United Nations is becoming like a parliament of the world to which all the most difficult problems of humanity sooner or later are brought for consideration, judgment, and action."

"I believe profoundly that only the success of the United Nations can prevent a third world war and achieve lasting peace."

"... the road laid out by the United Nations Charter is not only the right road, but the only road now available to a permanently peaceful world."

### **ON VIOLENT DEBATES IN THE UNITED NATIONS . . .**

"There are those who have been dismayed and shocked by the violence of debates that have taken place in the Assembly and Councils of the United Nations, and who maintain that it would be far better for the world if they had never taken place and if discussions between the governments had been left to the discreet methods of traditional diplomacy behind, of course, closed and well-insulated doors. No one would dispute that restraint of language is a virtue, but I would rather hear the worst insults of an angry debate in the General Assembly of the United Nations than read the exquisitely polite and dignified language in which foreign offices know how to couch a declaration of war. Words do not kill people; wars do."

### **ON SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS . . .**

"The United Nations will succeed if the peoples of the world, acting through their governments, insist upon unwavering support for the United Nations Charter, both in acts and in words, and upon using the machinery of the United Nations to its full capacity, not only part of the time, but all the time."

"We shall have peace in proportion to the amount of hard work and strong faith the peoples of the world give the United Nations work."

## ON THE RISE OF DEPENDENT PEOPLES . . .

"The days of dependency or inferior status are fast coming to an end in Asia. Its peoples are the inheritors of some of the world's greatest cultures; they are building their own new worlds on the foundations of the old. Their influence in the affairs of the United Nations is growing. Given time, and the necessary development of their economic resources, their influence will be more nearly commensurate with their population than it is today. The idea that all this vast diversity of ancient peoples stirring to new life and power could ever become the mere reflection of any form of society in other parts of the world is unrealistic."

"We live in a world where over 5,000,000,000 people have won their independence within a five year period.

It is a world in which over three times that number of people are actively stirring and searching for roads that will lead them from the despairing poverty that has been their fate, to higher standards of living, wider freedom of opportunity, and better security against hunger and disease.

We may be sure that these 1,500,000,000 people will not stand still in any case. They are certain to seek a remedy of one kind or another. In such a situation there is serious danger that impatience and desperation may lead to violent upheavals in many parts of the world.

The way to prevent or minimize such disasters lies in wise and bold action by the community of nations to give tangible hope of progress to all these peoples by the peaceful processes of United Nations help."

"I look forward to the day when all the peoples of the world will be represented in the United Nations."



## ON AID TO UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES . . .

"There is potential long-range danger to the prospects of achieving a stable peace in one of the economic trends that has persisted after the war. I refer to the growing gap between the countries with the highest standards of living and productivity and those with the lowest.

The peoples of the least developed countries—and they constitute far more than half of the world—are increasingly aware of this growing gap. To close this gap, by effective action toward raising the productivity of the less developed regions of the world, should have a high priority in the work of the United Nations.

The self-interest of the most highly developed countries is involved equally with that of the less developed countries. For the world has learned at last, after many hard lessons, that the only way to maintain and further develop high living standards in one part of the world is to raise living standards in other parts of the world."

"I believe that it should be a major goal of the United Nations to double the standard of living in the world over the next 20 years. Technically and scientifically this is now possible for the first time in history, provided political means can be found."

"The United Nations family of Specialized Agencies is by far the most effective machinery that the world has ever had for organized international action to eliminate human misery through persistent, day to day, practical programs. The Specialized Agencies have quietly gone ahead . . . right in the middle of the grave world crisis, with very limited resources, to develop and put into operation hundreds of such programs."

## ON THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS . . .

"It is becoming evident that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights . . . is destined to become one of the great documents of history."

"Like its great predecessors in the Western World—Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man—the Declaration of Human Rights is not in itself a law. Like them, however, it is a source of law. It raises a standard to which all men everywhere can make appeal and by which they can measure the conduct of their government."

" . . . the Declaration is helping greater numbers of people all the time to be more articulate and effective in demanding and securing observance of these rights from their governments."

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights goes beyond previous declarations in two ways. In the first place, it is international. It is the first declaration of human rights for the whole world in all history. In the second place, it includes not only the traditional rights to political and religious freedoms. It is also an expression of economic and social rights—such rights as the right to work, the right to social security, and the right to a decent standard of living."

"I believe that the rise of dependent peoples and the human rights movement will, in the long run, have far more significance and give rise to greater events in the second half of the twentieth century than will the present ideological struggle."

## **ON THE EAST-WEST STRUGGLE . . .**

" . . . the organs of the United Nations are now virtually the only places where regular contact and discussion have been maintained on a continuous basis between the Western Powers and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

"During my term as Secretary-General I have sought consistently to bring the two sides together. Now it is getting very late indeed. But it is never too late to negotiate in order to prevent a third world war. I do not believe it is too late today.

This is no time for despair.

This, above all, is the time to work and fight for a United Nations peace—a peace based squarely on the principles of the Charter—a peace of genuine collective security dedicated to the advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all peoples.

If the peoples and if their governments will support the United Nations—in Korea and throughout the world—with the same all-out spirit they gave to winning the last war, the world may still win such a peace—and win it for a long time to come."

## **ON RIVAL ECONOMIC SYSTEMS . . .**

"It would be a grave mistake to believe that most of the world has any intention of accepting any single economic system, whether based on the communist doctrine of the classless society or the most extreme American capitalist version of a free enterprise system. In a world where so many forces are at work and so many different civilizations and cultural traditions are stirring and intermingling, domination by any single ideology, whether it be religious, or political, or economic is unthinkable and impossible."

## ON PATIENCE AND PERSPECTIVE . . .

"(Another) lesson we are learning is the lesson of patience. We are beginning to make progress, I think, toward winning respect for the recommendations and compliance with the decisions of the United Nations. But we have a long way still to go. It takes time—much time—to establish new patterns of conduct that the Charter calls upon governments to follow."

"Building a peaceful world society will take a good deal longer (than the building of the U. N. headquarters). . . . We have to think in terms of decades, not of years. If we keep at the job all the time and never falter, we ought to be able to get quite a lot done in the next 20 years, and a great deal more in 50 years. If we can keep on building a peaceful world on a United Nations basis all that time without a war, then permanent peace will really be within our grasp."

## ON OUR PART IN CREATING WORLD COMMUNITY . . .

" . . . all of us must dedicate ourselves in the next 50 years to the creation of that peaceful world community which used to be a distant dream and now has become an urgent necessity."

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Grateful acknowledgment is made to the United Nations for helping the author to assemble the many speeches of Trygve Lie, to the Hermitage Press for permission to use quotations by Mr. Lie from their book, "Peace on Earth," and to Mr. Robert Staines for suggesting this title in the Speaks Series.

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