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JCSAB report - Loyalty Issue

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## Loyalty and the U. N.

It would be difficult to conceive a statement bearing a greater capacity for mischief than the statement, in a handbook issued to United Nations staff members, that loyalty to the international organization takes precedence over loyalty to country. Ambassador Lodge promptly denied this assumption; and he did well, for damage to the U. N. could be considerable if such views were left uncontested.

What seems extraordinary is that so extreme and doctrinaire a position should have been set forth without any apparent justification, and without citing specific situations in which it applies. Why raise the issue at all? A committee of distinguished jurists last year settled the practical question by announcing the concept of the "host" country—a concept which provided for special obligations upon the citizens of the nation where the United Nations finds itself located. The present Secretary General, Mr. Hammarskjöld, took his stand on the idea that "integrity"—not loyalty—is the test for members of the U. N. Secretariat. This effectively eliminates United States Communists from the international civil service, but it does not eliminate individuals who may have broken away from the thrall of a police state.

Loyalty, at best, seems a confused and ambiguous criterion to apply to the U. N. The Secretariat is trying to build up a group of civil servants who shall keep themselves above partisanship, who shall be detached and objective in performing their tasks, and shall make world peace an overriding objective of their efforts. That is a laudable aim. But loyalty in a juridical sense means loyalty to a sovereign power. The U. N. is not sovereign. It is not a super-state and does not pretend to be one. Admittedly, the problem of building up an international civil service, under an institution lacking in sovereignty, is difficult. But it can hardly be helped toward a solution by alarming or alienating one of the major member states.

Ambassador Lodge came near the mark when he said that the members of the Secretariat have a duty to the U. N. That duty includes a standard of conduct different in many ways from the conduct of an official of any national state. Tolerance, co-operation, emphasis on peaceful settlements are at the heart of it. But in the final test, obedience and loyalty of United States members are owed to the United States alone. It would be helpful if the U. N. committee that issued the handbook could make this unmistakably plain.