

# **Trips: Trips - 46**

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Trip to San Francisco 1955

June 21

Address of Ambassador Cyro de Freitas-Valle,

Head of the Brazilian Delegation

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ADDRESS OF AMBASSADOR CYRO de FREITAS-VALLE,  
HEAD OF THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION

21 June 1955

Mr. President,

President Truman has very adequately said that one should not emphasize the defects of the United Nations Charter and obscure its outstanding value. President Hoover showed understanding of the difficulties here encountered, very similar indeed to those which the League was unable to deal with. Having in mind the words of these eminent statesmen, I believe that in all fairness we ought to go further, not limiting our remarks here to what this Organisation has been able to achieve but also pointing out situations which, as a result of the action of the United Nations, did not degenerate into conflicts but, in a number of cases, have been satisfactorily resolved.

This inescapably leads us to the question of whether the ten years which have elapsed since the days of the San Francisco Conference have been made better or worse because of the establishment of the United Nations. No one, I should say, can deny that this Organisation has been beneficial to Mankind and has saved it from many hazards. Of course, the first commitment of the United Nations--the maintenance of Peace--has been fulfilled but in part, chiefly because Mankind inherited from the War only a Peace with mistrust. On the other hand, it has been contended that we are devoted here to relevant but subsidiary activities to which we attach undue importance in order to prevent the close scrutiny of our performance in the political field.

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It is time, Sir, if I may say so, to answer these criticisms. It is time to recall that many countries emerged from their non-self-governing status to become members of our One World by the hand of the United Nations, using the machinery designed by the United Nations for this purpose and set up in San Francisco ten years ago. It is time to proclaim that millions of human lives have been saved by the efforts of our World Health Organisation and by the brotherly cooperation of UNICEF. It is also time to stress the benefits received by many countries through Technical Assistance and to hope that it will be expanded manifold.

This occasion of rejoicing is not the most suitable one for seeking to ascertain the guilt for whatever failures may have occurred in the past. We should rather ponder on how easily the problem of Trieste and the question of the Treaty with Austria were settled, after so many and such long delays, the moment those directly concerned with the establishment of Peace set aside their prejudices and honestly faced the facts. Within hours, solutions were happily reached for issues which had for years been unhappily discussed. I am confident, and may God prove me right, that the tide of Peace is flowing in and slowly gaining ground. And Brazil hopes that Italy and Austria will be among us very soon, followed thereafter by other peace-loving countries.

The advent of the Atomic Age may prove that War cannot be used any longer as an instrument of policy, at least between great powers. Willing or unwilling, statesmen have to admit that it is here, within the framework of the United Nations, that they have to solve their differences and that Atoms for Peace are to be their and our program for the future.

The city of San Francisco, whose generous hospitality is so greatly appreciated, was the place to where the eye and hopes of men and women all over the earth converged in 1945. The Charter we wrote here was then hailed as the Great Promise of responsible men not to throw men against men and not to use

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force as an instrument of policy, but to seek honestly our well-deserved and so much hoped for peace. San Francisco is today the city where that hope has been reborn. Let us pray that the decisions taken here will bring forth the true and real V-Day which we have been longing for, the V-Day of men who can without fear co-exist in brotherhood as is the command of the Almighty.

I thank you, Sir.

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