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June 21

Address of the Danish Prime Minister
and Minister of Foreign Affairs

at the 10-th Anniversary Meeting of the UN

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NOT TO BE RELEASED BEFORE TUESDAY 11 A. M.

Mr. President,

It is a great pleasure for Denmark to participate in this meeting in San Francisco on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations' Charter. On behalf of the Danish Government I thank the authorities of San Francisco most cordially for the initiative they have taken in inviting the United Nations to celebrate this event in this beautiful city, and for the great kindness and hospitality which in these days and from so many quarters is being shown the representatives of the member countries.

On the background of our long-established and firm adherence to the idea of cooperation and arbitration, our membership of the League of Nations, and our experience in the Second World War, it was a foregone conclusion that Denmark had to be a member of the new organization of peace, the United Nations, which was to be created at the end of the war. And so, the United Nations' Charter received the unanimous consent of the Danish Parliament when the Foreign Minister at that time, Mr. Christmas Moller, submitted it for approval with the following words:

"For Denmark it was a great day when our delegation could accede to the United Nations' Charter. To-day, when the Charter is submitted for ratification, is also a great day because what happens here is the fulfillment of our most ardently desired goal, our most ambitious dream in the period when the country was occupied. This also marks a grand occasion because

our country wishes to throw its modest influence into the scale to ensure that justice be done to the spirit of this Charter, the idea behind it, that, which is going to unite the nations of the world."

Denmark is and has always been happy to be a member of the United Nations, and in the past years there have not in the great majority of the Danish population been any essential differences of opinion in regard to the policy pursued within the organization by our changing governments. The reasons why Denmark is happy to be a member of the United Nations are, in the first place, that the provisions of the Pact are an expression of the fundamental ethical principles and goals, vital to mankind, which we can wholeheartedly accept, and, in the second place, that it is our conviction that the experience of the past ten years has proved the immense justification and indisputable usefulness of the organization. The United Nations is thus the forum for the formation of a world opinion, a forum for the exchange of views of 60 nations on political, cultural, social and economic questions. Within its immense scope of activities, the United Nations has achieved a great number of positive results. And further, the United Nations has undoubtedly in many cases had a diverting effect in situations where conflicts might otherwise have arisen.

Not all our initial hopes in the United Nations have been fulfilled - some of them could in fact be described as exaggerated from the very outset. That, however, is hardly due to the wording of the Charter, but to general political developments; like any other work of man, the United Nations' Charter is not perfect, and is subject to the laws of evolution.

As expressed in the Charter, the time has now come for us

to consider whether the question of reviewing the Charter should be taken up. All, I want to say in this connection, is that it is a golden rule that one should be careful to replace something old and tested by something new which from the outset holds out no guarantee of being better. Nor would it be right to give the many, who have placed their confidence and hopes in the United Nations, the impression that problems, which have arisen from political and economic circumstances, may be solved merely by amending the Charter.

Among the many great tasks of the United Nations there are especially three which, on the occasion of this anniversary, I wish the Organization strength, luck and success to complete. I am thinking of the questions of reduction of armaments, peaceful use of atomic energy, and technical assistance to underdeveloped areas. The solution of these questions will, each in their own manner contribute substantially to the progress of mankind.

If armaments were reduced as a result of the United Nations' continued endeavors in this respect, it would mean to the nations and to the individual person a revival of that feeling of safety and security mankind so ardently is longing for. Fears would be removed and immense human and economic resources could be released, devoted to and used for the purpose of raising the standard of living of all peoples.

In Denmark we are gratified that even before agreement on armaments has been obtained, the United Nations has taken up the question of international co-operation on the peaceful use of atomic energy. All countries are looking forward to the economic and social progress which the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes would make

possible, but if our hopes are to come true, the political, economic, and technical problems arising in this connection must be solved through the confident co-operation of all the nations of the world. It is Denmark's hope, that the efforts which are now being made within the United Nations to set up a permanent framework for such co-operation, will be crowned with success, so that the peaceful use of atomic energy will actually become a matter of common concern to all the nations of the world. The big countries with their extensive productive resources will, of course, play the greatest role in this work, but also the other nations will be able, by virtue of their possessions of raw materials and their technical and scientific knowledge, to make valuable contributions.

Denmark, which for a long time has participated in international scientific work in the atomic field, in particular throughout Institute of Theoretical Physics, headed by Niels Bohr, is now making preparations, in co-operation with other countries, to contribute her share also in the field of applied science.

Denmark attaches the greatest importance to the work done by the United Nations to afford technical assistance to underdeveloped countries, and ever since the programme was started in 1950, Denmark's contributions to its financing have been quite considerable in proportion to the population of the country. The rendering of technical assistance to underdeveloped countries is an important means of strengthening world peace. The direct contact which in this way is being established between the countries may prove of the utmost importance. The technical and economic development of the countries that are backward in this respect presents a task where a successful and harmonious

solution is equally imperative to the countries giving assistance and the countries receiving assistance.

Even though the United Nations, which is planned as a universal organization, must hold a central position in international co-operation, it holds no monopoly for peace efforts; other forms of co-operation are needed and will be in conformity with the spirit and letter of the Charter.

Thus, it is only natural for countries united by special bonds because of their geographical location, historical traditions and common culture, to establish a close co-operation.

This applies for instance to the Scandinavian countries. In the past this co-operation has found many expressions. Conformity of the Scandinavian legal systems has been achieved in a very large measure, and it is now possible for a citizen of one Scandinavian country, when moving to another Scandinavian country, to benefit from the social service of that country. Likewise in numerous fields of cultural life a fruitful cooperation is taking place, quite spontaneously between individual persons or through organizations and authorities.

It is a characteristic feature of this intimate co-operation that it has been effected without external political unity. It has, as a matter of fact, been a condition that none of the Scandinavian countries could be suspected of forcing its will upon the others. The Scandinavian model of co-operation might prove to be of use even to countries outside Scandinavia.

One example of Scandinavian co-operation is the establishment of the Nordic Council. The Council is a consultative body of the parliaments and governments of the member countries in questions relating

to the co-operation of all or some of them. It has no powers to make decisions, it is purely consultative, and it deals only with questions of inter-Scandinavian co-operation. On the other hand, it is not the idea that the Council should address itself to other nations by adopting resolutions or the like. It is the aim of the Council, which is composed of responsible politicians from the member countries, to contribute, through recommendations and proposals to the governments, to a further strengthening of Scandinavian co-operation in all the many practical fields covered by its activities.

Denmark, which for generations had based her policy on strict neutrality, was taught by experience in the Second World War that it is not enough to have a will to live in peace with others.

Therefore, Denmark joined the North Atlantic Treaty, a purely defensive alliance in agreement with Article 51 of the United Nations' Charter. The provisions of the Treaty are based upon the principles of the United Nations' Charter and are in complete accord with the sincere wish of the Danish people that international peace and security as well as justice should not be endangered. It is therefore incorrect, as sometimes alleged, that the treaty is aggressive. The treaty is an expression of the common interests of the member countries in peace, security and independence, and at the same time it forms the nucleus of a further co-operation in political, cultural and economic fields.

The Four Big Powers which in the Second World War were united in a fight for existence unparalleled in history, will be meeting in the near future to examine the possibilities of restoring some of the confidence which was broken down by the events of the

post-war period. The Danish Government and people are hopeful about these talks, which are not going to take place under the auspices of the United Nations, but their background is the regional co-operation within the framework of this great world organization.

All of us who are assembled here today have experienced great wars. We do not want to experience such wars any more. It is our duty to prevent war. It is up to us to prove our right to hold responsible posts as members of governments or parliaments by securing a lasting peace. This has been said so often that it sounds like a phrase used on ceremonious occasions. We would, however, not be conscious of our duties and responsibilities, if we ended up by letting the sincerest hopes of mankind become nothing but hackneyed phrases.

It is gratifying to know, therefore, that big power talks are impending. They require the goodwill of all the parties, they require statesmanship and a wide outlook, and they require a sense of reality on the part of all involved.

It would indeed be a great gift to the United Nations on its tenth anniversary if a new epoch could be inaugurated, and if it happened, it would be in the spirit of our Organization.

Today, on the tenth anniversary of the signing of the charter, on behalf of Denmark I pay tribute to the United Nations in the ardent hope and wish that it will steadily increase in strength to the benefit of the highest cause of all, the cause of peace.

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