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UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

250 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.
CIRCLE 6-4400

Burlington, Vermont
December 18, 1946

85-14

His Excellency,
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Truman:

I have kept the State Department informed every morning of events in the General Assembly which has just closed. Now I feel that I must write you personally my impressions of the whole meeting.

In the beginning the Soviet attitude, as expressed by Mr. Molotov, was extremely bitter and hostile to the United States. When we ended the General Assembly that attitude had changed to quite cordial relations. Without appeasement, but with reasonable consideration for each other's point of view, the United States and Russia came to agreement upon practically every great issue in the Assembly. Even the question of disarmament was solved. The Russians would not yield on the point of veto in the Security Council. Nevertheless, they did yield on the point of veto in the operational field. On the plan for disarmament, which involves a treaty or treaties, each power has a veto but once the machinery for safeguards, inspection and enforcement is set-up, their operation will be free from the veto. Of course this depends on the treaties.

Throughout the delegations of the fifty-four nations there was manifested a strengthened confidence and faith in the United Nations. This was based upon the achievement by the Assembly of objectives such as:

- Locating the site of the permanent headquarters in New York;
- Adoption of eight trusteeship agreements and the formation of the trusteeship system;
- Regulation of armaments and disarmament;
- Certain recommendations regarding human rights and an international code;
- The admission of four new states promoting the principle of universality;
- The constant adherence of the great powers in all things to the principle of sovereign equality of nations both great and small;
- Recommendations for relief and for aid to refugees;
- Recommendations regarding Spain.

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-2-

We parted filled with hope for the future. The belief of mankind that we can avoid war should be increased as a result of this meeting.

I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity for service in this great cause.

With the highest regards, I am

Faithfully Yours,

Warren R. Austin,



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