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Address on United Nations Day

Strom Thurmond

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ADDRESS BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR STATEWIDE BROADCAST ON UNITED NATIONS DAY, OCTOBER 24, 1950, 12:30 P.M. TRANSCRIBED AT W. I. S. OCTOBER 17, 1950, 2:30 P.M.

FELLOW SOUTH CAROLINIANS:

At no time in world history have so many hopes and prayers been centered upon a single thought as are concentrated today upon the desire for permanent world peace.

Our celebration of United Nations Day is an outward sign that we hope and believe this great organization will one day find the way to eliminate war as a means of settling disputes among men.

Because we so earnestly want a peaceful world, we South Carolinians must give the United Nations our most vigorous support.

We must recognize that the United States cannot escape the challenge of supreme leadership in this tremendous effort. We must meet that challenge with high resolve, with bold energy, and with determined purpose. As General Omar Bradley said, "The United States has matured to world leadership; it is time we steered by the stars, not by the lights of each passing ship."

To steer this course, we must have the understanding, approval, and earnest assistance of all the free nations of the world. Without their help we cannot hope to achieve anything better than a temporary laying down of arms. But the nations are cooperating,
and I think we may feel confident today that our efforts are meeting with success.

It is true that Soviet Russia has been a stumbling block in our path. It has not only used its veto 46 times when free nations had agreed, but it has violated fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter by using threat and force to extend its influence over 500 million free people, virtually enslaving a third of the world's population. In doing so it has violated 35 treaties and agreements.

Nevertheless, there are still 60 free nations working for peace within the United Nations, and in the short time since World War II, much good has been accomplished. The people of Iran, Turkey, and Greece have been helped to withstand the threat of communism, and the people of Indonesia and Israel have been helped to establish their national independence.

In the matter of South Korea, we now have before us a concrete example of what the United Nations can do in spite of Russia's opposition tactics. Within 3 days of the North Korean attack, the Security Council of the U. N. had recommended that member nations send armed assistance. In two weeks, 47 nations backed them up, and in two months 30 nations had offered tangible assistance to South Korea.

This was the only possible course for the United Nations. It showed that the free nations, big and little, mean - 2 -
business now when they talk about peace. If we had allowed the
Republic of Korea to be invaded and conquered, the value of the
United Nations would have come to an end, just as the doom of
the League of Nations was settled when it did not come to the aid
of China when Japan invaded that country in 1931.

But this time we do mean business. I liked the
words of the U. N. Representative from one of the little nations, Ecuador, when he told the Security Council in no uncertain terms
that his country was backing its action:

"We respect the Charter of the United Nations," he
said. "We wish the principle of collective security to become a
living reality throughout the world, and on all occasions we hope
that every aggressor who attempts to violate international law
will be stopped."

These are heartening words, when they are backed
up with the strength of united action. The United Nations is
following the path of truth and justice, and it has proved that
it will not be intimidated even by the vast might of Soviet Russia.

In our support of the U. N., we cannot agree that
it should enter into internal disputes which are best settled by
the free citizens of a nation. We cannot agree that it should set
up a world government with laws supereeding our laws and endangering
our national sovereignty.
But we have seen that the U. N. is capable of acting to protect the interests of free peoples against aggressors, and, as freedom-loving Americans, we are willing to support it with the force of our arms if necessary. And we know that the Americans who gave their lives in Korea did so for a great cause.

Whatever its faults may be, the United Nations is the greatest human adventure of all time in the search for world peace. Its work may be the work of generations, but the crucial time for the United Nations is now, at this hour, when the test of its strength is being met. The unwavering support of every American citizen will be the greatest possible guarantee that the United Nations will find the way to peace in the generations to come.