

Cycle of Conferences

UN Reform

Transformation of the “Collective” Mind

It's often been said that if the United Nations didn't exist then it would have to be invented. It is a world forum – the world organisation of States but also various expressions of civil society now contribute to the work of the UN – non-governmental organisations, the business community, trade unions, professional associations and there is also co-operation with research and academic institutions, youth groups and other associations. The General Assembly is the closest thing we have to a parliament of nations and although the vote of the GA is not legally binding on member States, its decisions represent the moral authority of the community of nations.¹ Hence the vital importance of the need to strengthen and reform the UN and to make it more effective for today's world, reshaping it “in ways not previously imagined” so that it can be “...a useful instrument for its member States, and for the world's peoples...”²

The founders of the UN back in the 1940's, in effect, created a world forum that lifted human consciousness to a new level this being reflected in the UN Charter by its focus on world peace and security, fundamental human rights, justice and respect for international law and freedom for all peoples of the world. The UN is not and was never intended to be a world government; on the contrary the UN is powerless without the support and cooperation of its sovereign and independent member states. The challenge today is to make the UN more effective in a new era – an era where relationships are conducted in an interdependent world – a world that has been described as a global village with global citizens. So the UN Secretary General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, urges member states to be ready to help remould the UN and bring about the changes that are needed especially in the UN's intergovernmental organs: the General Assembly; the Security Council; the Economic and Social Council; the proposed Human Rights Council; and the Secretariat.³ “It is for the world community to decide...” and respond to the “opportunity and challenge”⁴. If Nations work together the UN can be “remoulded as an effective instrument of their common purpose”.⁵

From an esoteric perspective the United Nations may be considered as an instrument of the higher will, which works out through the work of the General Assembly which now consists of 191 States, representing virtually every country in the world. The corresponding instrument of the higher will in the individual human being is the mind which in its higher aspect has the potential to reflect the universal and inclusive values of the Soul. The founders of the UN precipitated their vision into the profound words of the Preamble to the UN Charter, words which, subject to human free will, can be put into practical effect in the world to avoid the “scourge of war”, to work for human rights, justice and international law and to promote social progress and freedom. But, of course, just as individuals, families, communities and nations struggle to reflect higher values and principles in the conduct of their daily life the UN similarly faces an immense challenge to transform itself into a suitable instrument for the transmission of spiritual values and principles. Perhaps the key factor in transformation is the “state of mind” of the instrument – the minds of the member nations representing, as best they can, “We The Peoples”. The objective must, therefore, be transformation of the “collective mind”.

The collective mind of humanity, as expressed by leading thinkers in all nations which make up the UN, is challenged to transform its thinking from a narrow vision – based upon national self interest, understandable as it is, to a wider and more universal vision based upon an awareness that

we are all interrelated parts of a greater Whole. Some would say that there are encouraging signs that this awareness is coming to the fore in the mass consciousness, for example, in the ability of people to communicate with others, near, far, and wide, in an instant. Then there is heightened public awareness of climate change and concern for the environment; now there is the drive to reduce world poverty; and vocal public opposition to “the scourge of war” and the evil of terrorism.

How does the mind transform itself? Well, any kind of transformation does not come easily; indeed it seems clear that the road to transformation passes through successive crises which eventually bring about the needed tension to break down crystallised thinking. If the “sharp shears of sorrow” do their needed work lessons are learnt and there is emergence into greater light. Significantly it’s said that the crises of the soul are expansions “registered by the inflow of love and light. They are mentally recognised crises of inclusiveness”. 6

In an era where we have reached a high peak of intellectual achievement transformation of the mind will open up a pathway to higher levels of consciousness. When the human instrument becomes obedient to the higher mind through the medium of the Soul a gateway opens up to higher dimensions of consciousness which will then impact upon our thoughts and actions in daily life. Indeed we’re told, in the book *The Light of the Soul*, by Alice Bailey that:

The effect of the transference of our conscious thinking state from a low objective to a high one produces a flow of energy of a vibratory quality equivalent to the higher objective. This produces a change or a mutation in the vestures of the thinking entity, and they become transmuted and brought to a condition where they are adequate to the thought or desire of the man. Carried to their conclusion, a transformation is produced, and the words of St. Paul become therefore clear: "Be ye therefore transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Change your line of thought and you will change your nature. Desire that which is true and right, pure and holy, and your consciousness of these things will create out of the old a new vehicle or new man, an "instrument [fit] for use." 7.

The thinking for the new era will be transformative and intuitive. It will lead towards the realisation that humanity is One. The illumination of the human mind by higher values and its use as an instrument of service is a great spiritual challenge. Is this the major challenge that faces the world community of nations?

Headquarters Group
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1. UN website: www.un.org.
- 2 Executive Summary *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All*.
3. Executive Summary, p.5.
4. Conclusion of Executive Summary.
5. Statement to The General Assembly, by The Secretary General on 21/3/05.
6. Discipleship in the New Age 1, p. 229.
7. *The Light of the Soul*, p. 382.

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