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which it has subjected to its own absolute rule. The theory of complete national sovereignty is made consistent with the practice of complete national subservience through the instrumentality of the Communist party. The leaders of this party never fail to take in Moscow the orders they execute in Warsaw and in the capitals of Russia's other so-called sovereign neighbours.

The third main cause of the weakness of the United Nations lies in the nature of the peace settlement it was set up to defend. That settlement, in so far as it may be said to have been achieved today, so grossly offends the sense of fairness of the whole free world that it would be found impossible to mobilize public opinion, to say nothing of military power, in favour of protecting it against aggression.

One recalls the protests raised in several of the Western countries when, in 1939, the map as drawn up in Versailles twenty years before was threatened by Hitler. "To die for Danzig!" was the indignant cry which widely expressed this protest. Still, Danzig was the symbol of the theories of self-determination and of free access to the sea which, according to the prevalent Wilsonian doctrine, were looked upon as necessary elements of international justice. But to die in order that the enslavement of millions of Poles, Czechs, Germans, Roumanians, Hungarians and other unwilling victims of Soviet imperialism might be perpetuated would be a prospect too abhorrent even to be contemplated.

Even if that were the only source of the impotence of the United Nations, it would in itself be sufficient to explain and to justify that impotence. Was not the Charter of 1945 adopted in the name of "the Peoples of the United Nations"? And is it not in its preamble stated that these peoples were "determined . . . to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights and men and women and of nations large and small . . ."? My pen refuses to continue the quotation. The generosity of the sentiments expressed in this eloquent preamble is so totally incompatible with the task that would be demanded of the peoples of the United Nations were they to be called upon to preserve the present peace settlement, that I cannot bring myself to dwell upon it.

We now see with agonizing clarity why the United Nations has not succeeded, and why it could not, under the circumstances of our age, succeed, in achieving its main purpose of maintaining international peace.

To say this is, of course, not to propose the dissolution of the only existing general international institution. It is not because the United Nations fails to protect mankind against the scourge of war that the cause of peace would be furthered by its disappearance. It may well serve other laudable purposes. The future may show that it even, indirectly but none the less usefully, promoted the quest for peace which is our sole concern here.

Our duty was merely to point out why that quest could not be pursued to-day under the sole aegis of the United Nations and along the lines laid down in its ill-timed and therefore ill-fated Charter.

(To be continued.)

A SUMMER CRUISE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

A pleasurable contrast to the arctic weather we are enduring can be found in an imaginary and vicarious voyage through the Mediterranean and the enjoyment, by proxy, of the blue skies and the brilliant sunshine of a summer cruise on board a luxury steamer.

Such a cruise is described, in much detail, by Mr. Walter Bachmann, well-known to our readers, in an illustrated booklet printed for private circulation. It is the transcript of his diary and takes us, in the summer of 1954, to Spain, Malta, Turkey, Greece and North Africa. In these countries Mr. Bachmann and his party went ashore and visited many places of historic interest which are vividly described.

What impressed us most is the author's immense vitality. Advancing years have not impaired his zest of life or lessened his capacity for enjoyment. With an energy we envy he takes part in strenuous deck games and competitions. He missed none of the entertainments and excursions organised for the benefit of the passengers, much of it in tropical heat, and he takes late hours and increasing conviviality in his stride.

An expert in catering himself, Mr. Bachmann makes our mouths water with exciting menus of wonderful food and drink served on board ship and ashore.

As we came to the end of this enjoyable little book, we put another log on the fire and made sure of a hot water-bottle in our bed.

J.J.F.S.



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