

Committee: Historical Committee

Delegation: Yugoslavia

Topic: The San Francisco Conference; envisioning the postwar world order



Yugoslavia is a country that embodies brotherhood and unity, that being our main slogan¹; thus, we believe that the international community should, just as we have within our borders, even very recently, work together for the good of our citizens. The world has become a battlefield; this happened far too soon after the Great War, and so many civilians are struggling, yet we haven't been able to come together, not until now.

As a country deeply impacted by the war, being separated and invaded, being bombed, being stripped of our sovereignty through invasion by Axis powers and losing at least 900 000 Yugoslav people² while also struggling with issues of leadership within our borders and famine, we have used unity as a strength, through it all our people stood tall and fought for Yugoslavia, her morals and what she represents. At this moment we are still liberating parts of our great nation, and when we do, we will create a new, better democratic country, the borders of which will protect people of all different ethnicities and religions.

Yugoslavia has been a great supporter of establishing an international organisation, being one of the founding members of the League of Nations, and while we accept that the league was lacking on many issues, such as Article 22³, which gives far too much power to colonial powers, many bigger powers abstaining from joining, namely the USA, and many other issues, we cannot ignore its general idea of unity and diplomacy, which is why we have supported the idea of establishing a new and improved version. We are proud to be one of the original signatories of the Declaration by the United Nations, signing it on January 2nd, and even before that, signing the St James' Agreement⁴. We also declared our adherence to the Atlantic Charter at the Second Inter-Allied Conference, and while we weren't a part of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, we support its frameworks but believe we can improve it further.

¹Wikipedia, Brotherhood and unity URL:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brotherhood_and_unity

² Wikipedia, World War II in Yugoslavia

URL:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II_in_Yugoslavia

³ Yale Avalon Project, The Covenant of the League of Nations (Including Amendments adopted to December, 1924), Article 22,

URL:https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/leagcov.asp#art22

⁴ Yale Avalon Project, St. James Agreement; June 12, 1941,

URL:<https://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/imtjames.asp>

The establishment of the United Nations should bear some resemblance to the League of Nations, particularly in its guiding principles. Article 11, which recognised that conflict involving one member is a matter of concern to all, and Article 16, which required members to stand together, even against their own allies, when a member state is attacked, are both ideas worth preserving.

We would, however, like the United Nations to be a place where even small nations, such as ourselves, are not overpowered by larger states and would be given a similar platform to them. Building on that, we must also establish a system of support that prevents colonisation and foreign intervention, which is exactly what we and many other countries, such as Poland, Greece, faced during this war. There should also be, as was proposed, an organ of the organisation set in place to help countries with postwar reconstruction and economic recovery, and we fully support the notion of the United Nations standing for “sovereign equality for all its members”⁵.

As for the bodies of the UN, we cannot stress enough how important setting regulations and obligations for member states is. That was an issue for the League of Nations, and we should not repeat it again. The proposed General Assembly is a good way for small states to be platformed and viewed as equals, but it will only function if we enforce the agreements we sign during this conference. The Security Council, on the other hand, is a crucial body; it must be there as a means of reaching peace and security, and we are prepared to agree to major powers having permanent membership in it, but we cannot, wholeheartedly, stand behind complete veto power, as it could paralyse smaller nations and be misused. What we would propose instead is a partial veto, which Security Council members can use on issues that directly impact their security. And we must once again mention the importance of the establishment of the ECOSOC as a means of helping the economies of countries struggling in the postwar world, as we ourselves have been greatly impacted and have relied on the help of the Soviet Union and the United States of America.

Finally, we are looking forward to debating colonialism at the conference, as countries like ours that have been the victims of foreign intervention and colonisation are frequently disregarded and forgotten. We refuse to allow this to happen in the future and look forward to advocating on behalf of all countries that are unable to do so.

We hope the United Nations operate on the same principles we stand on, unity, in the words of our great Josip Broz Tito: “Let that man be a Bosnian, Herzegovinian. Outside they don't call you by another name, except simply a Bosnian. Whether that be a Muslim (Bosniak), Serb or Croat. Everyone can be what they feel that they are, and no one has a

⁵ Welcome to the United Nations, Charter of the United Nations, Chapter I-Purposes and Principles, Article 2(1)–(5), URL: <https://legal.un.org/repertory/art2.shtml>

right to force a nationality upon them.”⁶ those same words can be applied to any country, and we hope they will be reflected in the creation of the United Nations

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⁶ Goodreads, Josip Broz Tito Quotes, URL: https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/884352.Josip_Broz_Tito