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**UN Charter Day
Meeting on June 26, 2000 at Godrej Bhavan
Organised by the
Maharashtra United Nations Association**

Poor substitute for Mr. Iqbal Chagla.

However....

Will talk on an aspect of the UN Charter - The Preamble

In the context of the information revolution
brought on by the breathtaking advances in communication technology.

*also called communication
Also referred to as
the knowledge
revolution.*

Incidentally this brief talk is addressed to the young in mind and spirit.

The Preamble says

"WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person , in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours
etc....

① "We the Peoples of the United Nations.

The reference is to people not to nations - from the dwellers in the Amazon jungle in Brazil to the dwellers in the concrete jungle in Nariman Point.

But so far - it has been the nations of the world represented by their elected representatives or dictators or military rulers who claim to speak for their people

Now thanks to satellite communications it will be possible for people to communicate with each other ..

Not saying that the Jungle dwellers have phones or PCs but it is no longer in the realms of the impossible

In other words as never before - people to people contact cutting across national boundaries.

Bring the concept of one world closer.

My neighbour is as much Karachi in Pakistan as Kinshasa in the Congo.

In Karachi a couple of years ago

At a seminar on the role of civil society

Issue of travel restrictions

the internet beating passport and visa requirements;

Of course state restrictions monopoly like DOT
But for how long
Technology and not political will responsible
for opening competing non-government TV channels
Technology will make state restrictions meaningless
DTH - Direct to Home

② "To Save succeeding generations from the scourge of war"
We may not have had World War III
But
We have had any number of local wars and
We have had the Cold War
With two super-powers battling by proxy eg. Korea and Vietnam

In the last 50 years

UN data -from the internet (an example of information available on line - almost 2000 sites on the UN alone)

UN Peace keeping operations:

Africa -	Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Libya, Congo, Liberia, Mozambique
	Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia
The Americas -	Central America, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti,
Asia -	Afghanistan/Pakistan, Cambodia, India/Pakistan, West New Guinea
Europe -	Croatia, Former Yugoslavia, Macedonia
Middle East -	Iran/Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen
These according to the UN, are "Completed Peacekeeping Operations"	

Current Peacekeeping Operations are:

Africa -	Congo, Sierra Leone, Western Sahara
Asia -	East Timor, India/Pakistan, Tajikistan
Europe -	Bosnia, Herzgovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Kosovo
Middle East -	Golan Heights, Iran/Kuwait, Lebanon, Middle East

So the scourge of war is still very much with us.

To the people suffering ~~scourge~~ -war is war
It does not matter if it is a world war or a local war

People do not want wars- These are the creations of vested interests
Power hungry politicians and military leaders and of course religious fundamentalists.
If people could be directly in touch with one another
and be better informed about the real situation
Not what their rulers would like them to hear or see
Then indeed the scourge of war will be erased
This is what the peoples of this world desperately need.
Not nukes and other weapons of mass destruction.

Many of the
Deaths
in
Harmless

And this will contribute to

③ 3. To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

And over a period of time, national boundaries will become merely demarcations for the purpose of administration much like the states and districts in our country are -or ought to be.

Passports will become unnecessary and we would move towards a world federation

Sounds utopian? May be at this point of time.

If 60 years ago someone (other than Arthur C. Clarke of course)

had said that we would land on the moon

or

that from a remote corner of India *one world* be able to contact

a small town Iceland in a matter of minutes if not seconds,

would we have believed ?

Yet that is reality today.

Technology is driving us towards a one world

The United Nations will at that time come into its own

The UN Charter will be the only Constitution with worldwide relevance.

End with Alvin Toffler "Creating a New Civilization" *He is mks from a US perspective*
"Never in history have there been so many reasonably educated people collectively armed with so incredible a range of knowledge. Never have so many enjoyed so high a level of affluence, precarious perhaps, yet ample enough to allow them time and energy for civic concern and action. Never have so many been able to travel, to communicate and learn so much from other cultures. Above all, never have so many had so much to gain by guaranteeing that the necessary changes, though profound be made peacefully.

"Elites, no matter how enlightened, cannot by themselves make a new civilization. The energies of whole peoples will be required. But those energies are available, waiting to be tapped. Indeed, if we, particularly in the high technology countries, took as our explicit goal for the next generation the creation of wholly new institutions and constitutions, we could release something far more powerful even than energy: the collective imagination".

Think about it.



A. A. SYED

Secretary General

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5 JUNE 2000

Mr. S.V.Raju
Editor
Freedom First
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Dear Mr.Raju

Apropos to my teletalk, sending here with some books on U.N.
Charter for your perusal, *kindly return it after your study.*

U.N. Charter Day will be held on Monday 26 June 2000 at 6.30 p.m.
at Godrej Bhavan, Home Street, Fort, Mumbai.

Hon'ble Justice Mr.N.J.Pandya, of Mumbai High Court has kindly
consented to be the Chief Guest.

Kindly suggest me a few names who could be invited as speakers,
on various subjects concerning to U.N., each speaker will be
given 15 minutes.

→ Your reply by 8 June will be appreciated.

Thanks and regards,

A.A. SYED
Secretary General.

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MUNA