

Editorial

Fifty years too many

The United Nations is presently facing financial bankruptcy. This, and its manifest bureaucratic inefficiency, are being used by some as a reason to try to shut it down. The truth is that it should be shut down, not for financial reasons, but because it has been morally bankrupt since its inception—or one might say its misconception.

A good deal of the responsibility for the founding of the U.N. lies with Franklin Roosevelt, who originally conceived of it as a way of containing the British by formalizing the wartime relationship among the Big Four: the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China. According to his son Elliott, Roosevelt's intention was to use the U.N. to dismantle the British and French empires.

He certainly did not envisage the immediate post-war emergence of the Cold War, nor the fiction subsequently concocted, that he and Winston Churchill had forged a "special relationship" between their two nations.

In 1943, Elliott Roosevelt accompanied his father to the Teheran summit. In his book *As He Saw It*, Elliott quotes FDR: "When we've won the war, I will work with all my might and main to see to it that the United States is not wheedled into the position of accepting any plan that will further France's imperialistic ambitions, or that will aid or abet the British Empire in its imperial ambitions."

Franklin Roosevelt made several miscalculations. He overestimated his own health and his ability to determine the shape of the postwar world. More significantly, he apparently did not understand the plans of the British circle led by Bertrand Russell to use the atomic bomb to force the establishment of a one-world government. Russell's vision of a United Nations with teeth became the U.N. we know today.

On Sept. 1, 1946, Russell wrote a scathing attack on Roosevelt's conception of the U.N., in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. The title of the article was, "The Atomic Bomb and the Prevention of War." Russell wrote: "It is entirely clear that there is only one way in which great wars can be permanently prevented, and

that is the establishment of an international government with a monopoly of serious armed force. When I speak of an international government, I mean one that really governs, not an amiable facade like the League of Nations, or a pretentious sham like the United Nations under its present constitution. An international government, if it is to be able to preserve peace, must have the only atomic bombs, the only plant for producing them, the only air force, the only battleships, and generally whatever is necessary to make it irresistible. . . .

"The monopoly of armed force is the most necessary attribute of the international government, but it will, of course, have to exercise various governmental functions. It will have to decide all disputes between different nations, and will have to possess the right to revise treaties. It will have to be bound by its constitution to intervene by force of arms against any nation that refuses to submit to the arbitration."

Russell would certainly have applauded the U.N.'s role today in the former Yugoslavia. In the Balkans, the British have forced through a policy of using the U.N. Blue Helmets to strengthen the Serbian position and prevent the Bosnians from defending their nation.

It is by no means coincidental that the Serbians, recipients of Britain's wholehearted support, have carried out a policy of racial purification, modelled upon Hitler's racialist policies. These same policies were supported by the British oligarchy prior to World War II. These same policies are now carried out more discreetly under the aegis of U.N. efforts to reduce the populations of Asia and Africa, to a level deemed appropriate to their would-be new overlords.

In a 1992 interview, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told a reporter for the London *Independent* his views on U.N. policies toward the former colonies. "When bits of Africa collapsed in chaos in the last century," he said, "colonial powers came in and there was the scramble for Africa. But that's not on; they're not going to do that again, and therefore it is only going to be the U.N."

It is time to correct Roosevelt's blunder and dismantle this abominable institution.