

PSYCHOLOGY

# Pattern for World Peace

Specialists gathered at the first International Congress on Mental Health explained how the world could avoid the disaster of another war.

By GEORGE GLENWOOD

Written from London

► DURING the past year in some 27 countries about 5,000 men and women, each a specialist in some phase of mental health or human relationships or both, focused their skilled attention on three questions which today are constantly on the minds of people everywhere:

"Can the catastrophe of a third world war be averted?"

"Can the peoples of the world learn to cooperate for the good of all?"

"On what basis is there hope for enduring peace?"

Recently some 2,000 of these social scientists met in London for the ten-day session of the first International Congress on Mental Health. They discussed the results of their year's work, and approved, by an almost unanimous vote, a number of recommendations prepared by their International Preparatory Committee. Before they disbanded they created a permanent World Federation for Mental Health to take up the torch of sanity and world citizenship in an attempt to light the way to world harmony and good will.

## Dubbed Idealistic

In some quarters these well-meaning, forward-looking social scientists have been labeled as impractical visionaries. Peace through mental health is all very good, say some people, but who is going to get the world to listen to idealistic proposals for curing the ailments of our sick society?

Unless the proposals of the social scientists can see the light of practical application they are not worth the thought it takes to formulate them. To obtain competent opinion on the future application of mental health principles to international good will and cooperation, four of the leading luminaries at the Congress were interviewed. They were asked three pertinent questions. Their answers reflect the full range of hope and despair with which the world may face the future.

The panel of experts was made up of:

Dr. Carl Binger, consultant to the Neuro-psychiatric Division of the U. S. Veterans Administration, Editor-in-chief of *PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE*, associate professor of clinical psychiatry at Cornell University, and speaker to the Congress on "World Citizenship and Good Group Relations."

Dr. Margaret Mead, assistant curator of ethnology at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, one of the world's foremost anthropologists, writer of

a half dozen books on primitive societies, consultant to the UNESCO Workshop for International Understanding and to the International Congress of Americanists, and Congress speaker on "Collective Guilt" and "The Individual and Society."

Dr. David Mitrany, adviser on international affairs to Lever Bros. and Unilever Ltd., for seven years assistant European editor of Carnegie Endowment's "Economic and Social History of the World War," author and lecturer on world citizenship and peace, and Congress speaker on "The Mental Health Aspect of World Citizenship."

Dr. John R. Rees, consulting psychiatrist to the British Army in World War II, Director of Medical Services at London's world famous Tavistock Clinic, President of the Congress and now first president of the World Federation for Mental Health.

The first question was: How will recommendations on mental health and good international relationships be brought home to the politician and statesman?

All four of the experts are in agreement that at present the social scientist is generally ignored by governmental agencies on the policy-making level. Yet that is just the

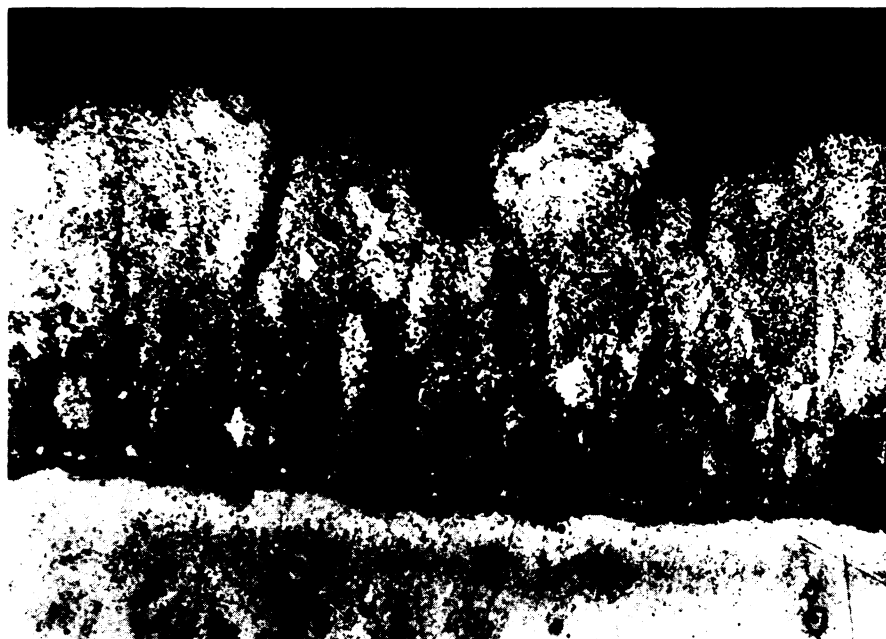
level where the social sciences can do the most to promote peace and serve mankind. Nor, thinks Dr. Rees, is there any immediate hope of getting governmental policy jobs for social scientists. He agrees with Dr. Mitrany that the social scientists must begin by winning public opinion to their side, since politicians must ultimately give ear to public opinion. Dr. Mitrany believes that social scientists can best win the attention of the public by first agreeing on and then putting forward a considered view "on the possible implications and effects of particular pieces of social legislation in regard to mental health."

## World Health Organization

Dr. Binger and Dr. Rees are both of the opinion that one of the most promising avenues of international influence of the World Federation for Mental Health is through its association with the World Health Organization, which has 64 closely cooperating member nations, including Russia. Both Drs. Mead and Binger think that the personal influence of individual social scientists will gradually induce law makers, administrators, industrialists, etc., to give more serious consideration to principles of mental health. Dr. Mead also advocates attack at points of least resistance. "We must look for points of leverage," she says, "and use them to pry open the wall of resistance."

The second question was: Can a nation which is receptive to ideas of mental health and peace launch a national program of education for peace if its unreceptive neighbors continue to wax aggressive?

(Continued on Page 219)



**OLD COPPER PLATING METHOD**—This is a magnification of a cross-section of copper plated on a steel sheet by the old process. The ragged copper surface, which appears smooth to the naked eye, has to be buffed and polished before the nickel and chromium surface is plated on.

## World Peace

(Continued from Page 214)

Dr. Mead and Dr. Rees immediately took exception to the wording of this question. Neither one of them would accept the idea of receptive and unreceptive nations. They believe that all nations are receptive in some respects, unreceptive in others. Dr. Rees insists that even though the world is made up of nations of different ideologies, no nation incurs any risks in educating its peoples for peace since such education does not imply pacifism or laying down before aggression.

Education for peace, Dr. Mitrany agrees wholeheartedly, is not weakening but, in fact, strengthening to a nation. A people's appreciation of peace makes them resist only more strongly the aggressiveness of outsiders. The common practice of preparing for "so-called" defense by arousing fear in one's own people is psychologically neither a sound nor reliable mental foundation for the purpose of defensive war. By inculcating aspiration to world citizenship a government would make its people more conscious and, therefore, more resentful of the denial of that idea by other nations. Dr. Binger, on the other hand, questions the ability of a peace-inclined nation to concentrate on promoting peace when menaced by aggressive neighbors, since fear and anxiety frequently precipitate people into war.

The last question threw the bogies of war and revolt squarely in the laps of the experts: How are we going to get unreceptive nations to accept the ideals of peace through mental health and world community; must their peoples rise and overthrow them, or must we have yet one more war to force such nations into receptiveness?

### War No Solution

Here again there was opposition from Dr. Mead and Dr. Rees on the use of the terms receptive and unreceptive. But with one accord all four experts agreed that neither revolt nor war was any solution to the world's ills.

"Revolution or war is no way to get mental health," says Dr. Mead.

Dr. Mitrany points out that "One can not bludgeon people into accepting ideas." He goes on to say that our failure to achieve lasting peace so far is due not a little to the negative view of peace we have held—a mere absence of violence. When peoples begin to think of peace as something positive and continuous—an active campaign for the mutual good and benefit of all the people of the world—only then will peace become real and stable.

Though disclaiming any leanings towards pacifism, the experts expressed the view that "unreceptive" states could best be won over by example, cooperation and by winning their confidence. Dr. Mitrany's suggestion for gaining their confidence is by

developing positive joint international activities and services. Dr. Binger thinks that confidence can best be won through intellectual exchange on a level which does not involve political bias. He points out that several of our leading scientists have the confidence of their Russian counterparts. (But the atmosphere of vituperation and recrimination enveloping the recent World Congress of Intellectuals meeting in Wroclaw, Poland, does not seem to support Dr. Binger on this point.)

Dr. Rees believes we must undertake an international program of gradual, persistent education through all available means. Dr. Mead again stresses her belief that every society has its receptive points and that these are the ones to be attacked with all the socio-scientific vigor at our command.

But if, in spite of everything, war should come, then our civilization as we know it today is probably doomed. Another war, says Dr. Binger, will bring all the horrors of complete regimentation, all loss of individual freedom, excessive industrialization and, if not atom bombing, then something even more terrible—bombardment with germs causing every conceivable disease in man, his livestock and his crops.

That, then, is the situation as seen by four of the world's leading social scientists. Certainly it is not a rosy picture—these authorities are far too close to reality to be pollyannas—but neither is it one of hopeless gloom.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1948

### METEOROLOGY

## Radar Navigation in Dust Storms Successful

➤ SAND AND DUST STORMS that plague shipping in the Persian Gulf hold no terrors for a radar equipped vessel, in the opinion of Master V. P. Marshall of the American S. S. Cornell. Vessel navigation in a dust storm is a new application of radar.

In the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf sand and dust storms are frequent and visibility often cut to one mile, or less, for prolonged periods, he stated in a letter to Sperry Gyroscope Company, of Great Neck, L. I., who are makers of marine radar equipment. With our radar, he stated, no time has been lost by the vessel arriving at, or departing from, dust-shrouded ports.

Sperry's marine radar was developed primarily for use in sailing in foggy weather. It locates shorelines, islands and other vessels. Many installations of radar equipment made by various companies are in use on coastal vessels, ships on the Great Lakes, river boats and ocean liners. The equipment used is similar to the wartime radar on planes that helped locate enemy installations and the type used on shore to locate invisible enemy planes in the air.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1948

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