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SETBACK FOR REASON

Although significant strides toward world peace have been made recently, last night saw a major setback for hopes that reason, rationality, and responsibility are establishing a foothold in the conduct of world affairs.

Of course, I refer to the vote in the United Nations to expel the Nationalist Chinese government upon the seating of Mainland China in the General Assembly.

Last night was a sad and ominous occasion, both for the United Nations and for the history of civilized relations among Nations.

HYPOCRITICAL PROPAGANDA

It was sad because a peace-loving and reliable member state of the United Nations was expelled from all councils of that body under the most blatantly hypocritical and propaganda-ridden circumstances.

The language of the resolution of expulsion is such that I fail to see how any Nation other than a subservient state of the communist bloc could vote for it and maintain any shred of self respect.

The resolution speaks of the "lawful rights of the Peoples Republic of China" to be seated. It calls the Mainland Regime "the only lawful representatives of China" and it asserts that the Nationalist Government had "unlawfully occupied" its seat in the UN and its affiliated organizations. It reads like something from PRAVDA or the NEW CHINA NEW AGENCY rather than a solemn statement supported by 76 of the world's supposedly sovereign nations.

DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

The action taken last evening had ominous overtones, because it could well signal the beginning of the end for the United Nations as a free and open forum for the discussion of major world points of view.

What is to become of the United Nations if a peace-loving state, a charter member and permanent representative on the Security Council can be thrown out on a vote which is not even deemed to be an "important question" by a coalition of Nations, many of whom can lay only the most tenuous claim to statehood?

What will be the next Nation to be expelled? Will it be South Africa on account of its racial policies? Will it be Israel on account of its defense policies? Will it be the United States because of Vietnam? Why should Russia not be expelled because of Hungary and Czechoslovakia?

SERIOUS QUESTIONS

Last evening's actions raises serious questions about the future of the UN and its potential for contributions to world peace.

It also raises serious questions about the United States' future relationship with the United Nations and with several member nations who demonstrated by their votes that their diplomatic word was worthless. I certainly hope that both in the UN and in our bilateral dealings with these Nations our Nation will be on guard to be sure that our interests are not jeopardized by reliance on these obviously unreliable nations.

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