ABA Welcomes New Building


On behalf of the legal profession of America I extend congratulations to all who have made this new law school building a reality. The chairman of the Board of Trustees, Trustees, Dean Levi, the Faculty, Alumni and friends of the Law School and the University certainly have a right to be proud that your great law school will now have one of the finest law school buildings in the Nation.

We of the American Bar are particularly happy to welcome the law school as a neighbor. The proximity of the new building to the Bar Center will be mutually beneficial. There will be occasions when we can “borrow” their auditorium and moot courtroom. While we use their fine library they may find our specialized library and research facilities useful too.

This new building is above all a tribute to the role of law in our Nation. And law is indeed the foundation of and reason for the greatness of the United States of America.

While you do a complete job in training able lawyers, to me the most significant work your great law school is doing today is in the international field. Your program for training foreign law students and lawyers in our law and your courses in international law, especially commercial law, are well known. And in the light of the current world situation may I express the hope that this work will be multiplied a hundredfold in your new building.

The great technological achievements of our day have shrunk nations to neighborhoods. Distance is now meaningless. Nations must learn to live together in our shrunken world or risk annihilation in a war of devastation. To me the best formula for living together is by developing a system of law and courts whereby disputes formerly settled by the bloodshed of war are settled in tribunals of justice.

International law is to most lawyers a vast unknown and mysterious subject. So too are the few existing international tribunals of justice. In fact, the need for law in the world community is the greatest gap in the legal structure of civilization. To fill that gap is today the legal profession’s greatest challenge and its greatest opportunity.

It is up to lawyers to develop a plan whereby the arms race can be ended with disputes between nations settled under the rule of law just as such disputes between individuals are now settled.

In a few days we will reveal at NATO our plans for meeting the Russian challenge as brought to a head by the Sputniks. I earnestly hope our plans will include not only a demonstration of our capacity to equal and exceed the Kremlin in arms but a plan for an end to the arms race.

To me the best plan we could espouse would be a plan for peace under law. This plan offers the best hope for all peoples to move out from under the shadow of the H-bomb and allow nations to live in peace as neighbors in a world where technological achievement has made such living essential to survival.