



Epistle to Friends everywhere from the Committee of the Quaker United Nations Office in New York

Fifteenth Day of Third Month, 2003

We are writing this epistle at a time when war seems imminent. We are called to affirm our belief in the importance of the United Nations as a place where the world community of nations can seek resolution of major issues.

In 1945, Friends enthusiastically supported the creation of the United Nations and affirmed the language of the Charter, which reflects the fundamental Quaker values and testimonies: respect for the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person; and the duty to promote peace, human rights and human development. Adherence to the Charter of the United Nations is today more essential than ever.

As recently as 2001 at the Millennium Summit the heads of state of all the members of the United Nations affirmed their "commitment to the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal," especially the purpose to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war." This summit reaffirmed the importance of The Security Council of the United Nations as the body created to preserve peace throughout the world. For the past six months The Security Council has provided the forum that has enabled nations large and small to share in a deliberation concerning the legitimacy of war as a means of disarming Iraq. In this way the Security Council has succeeded in its role as envisioned by the Charter.

We invite Friends everywhere to unite in support of the United Nations and of the principles on which it was founded, and to join us in pursuit of our QUNO Committee's vision to realize a "spirit-led world in which peace and justice grow in concert. This world is in our midst whenever our hearts long for it, our minds imagine it, our hands shape it, and love makes it so."

Ernie Buscemi, Clerk, QUNO Committee