

Address at New York University

Hall of Fame Ceremony

Table for Woodrow Wilson

May 20, 1956

Why was an association of nations needed? Because, he said, "the peace of the world must henceforth depend upon a new and more wholesome diplomacy"; because "the principle of public right must henceforth take precedence over the individual interests of particular nations"; because "the

tions, unlike the League, has never lost a Member state, and now, with

seventy-five Member states, seems to be moving inexorably toward true unification.

seeking ways to make our international society speak to this. But we are

rightly the fundamental principle of the League of Nations, as expressed in Woodrow

Wilson's words—"to be the eye of the nations to the common interest."

keep watch upon the world. I have no doubt that forty years from now we shall also be engaged

... the illusion of cynicism, so the first temptation of the idealist in the ill-
 did not entirely escape his temptation, any more than have most
 idealists of history. In his valiant fight for the cause of the Le-
 Nations, he went beyond the concept of an institution acting for the
 common interest of the peoples of the world. He visualized the estab-
 lishment of the League as ending the old system of the balance of power,
 instituting what he called a "community of power." and subs
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 interest is, ind
 But the establishment of the League of Nations di
 could it end at one stroke the system of the balance of powe
 national affairs.

... the League was an associat
 United Nations is today
 of powers in the world
 United Nations today results from a similar tendency to pic-
 United Nations of 1945, an establishment which reversed the
 world
 Now, as then, it is important for all of us to understand that true
 collective security can be achieved only through a balance of power
 on a global scale. The only permanent peace on the world is to be found at the end

also saw that...
on moral force,
ion of peace, not

through collective security, were ahead of the...
international organization should rely primar...
because—in his words—it was “intended as a c...

y well what was at the root of the difficulty with...
ation work more effectively in the common inter...

as a League of...
He underst...

essed it in words that we would do well to turn into the...
and report to ourselves in our own times: “They have

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of law ... failed to bring international conflicts effectively under the