

Anti-U.S. Vote Ignored Opportunity

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON — Communist and nonaligned members of the Security Council should have thumbed through the pages of history before voting against U.N. consideration of the Vietnam war.

If so, they would have found a unique opportunity to put the United States on record on two points which this country has not accepted before. They are:

1. Sitting down at the same conference table with Red China under the auspices of the United Nations. Hitherto we have had private sessions at Warsaw between the Chinese and American ambassadors but only once have we participated in an international conference with the Red Chinese—at Geneva in 1954. President Johnson, however, was willing to meet with the Chinese at the United Nations which hitherto we have opposed.

2. Putting the United States in the position of accepting compulsory arbitration, hitherto never accepted by the United States.

Here are some pages in my own notebook of history which illustrate what opportunities



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the U. N. delegates are missing:

History Page 1—In 1928, as a young newspaperman, I went down to Havana with President Calvin Coolidge, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg, and Charles Evans Hughes, former Secretary of State, then Chief Justice of the United States—all three reasonably important Republicans. At Havana they negotiated an arbitration treaty pledging the United States to go to an international court to settle trouble between any pan-American countries.

When they got back to Washington, however, Republican sparks flew, and the U.S. Senate, then dominated by Republicans, killed this Pan-American Arbitration Treaty.

History Page 2—In 1930, I accompanied Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson to London for a naval conference at which he proposed a consultative pact. It was a very mild proposal, merely pledging the United States to sit down and talk in case war threatened. There was no obligation to arbitrate.

Stimson was an elder statesman in the Republican Party, with great prestige. But when his consultative pact proposal was made known in Washington, not only did the GOP President, Herbert Hoover, backtrack on him, but the idea was promptly killed by, the

U.S. Senate, still dominated by Republicans.

History Page 3—In 1931, after the Japanese invaded Manchuria, Secretary Stimson went to Geneva to try to persuade the League of Nations to step in and stop the Japanese warlords. The United States was not a member of the League, and Europe had deplored our refusal to join.

But the French press screamed to high heaven over Stimson's arrival, claiming the United States was trying to intervene in something that was not its business, just as the French argued at the United Nations in New York this week. War, of course, is everybody's business, and Stimson was trying to head off a dispute which later did develop into World War II.

History Page 4—In 1946, I went to Paris to cover the efforts of Secretary of State Jimmy Byrnes in trying to negotiate a peace treaty ending World War II. He got nowhere. The headlined trouble was the resistance of Soviet Russia. One un-headlined trouble was the unwillingness of the U.S. Senate to agree on arbitration or even litigation before the World Court.

Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon, then a Republican, introduced a resolution permitting the World Court to arbitrate disputes affecting the United States. Byrnes, a Democrat,

supported Morse. But John Foster Dulles, then foreign adviser to Gov. Tom Dewey of New York, secretly worked with Republican Senators to undercut the Morse resolution.

"How can (Sen.) Vandenberg and Dulles complain about the Russians having a veto power," Byrnes exploded, "when in the very next breath they refused to join the World Court for fear the court will rule against us?"

History Page 5— Various attempts have been made in the Senate to override the American veto over letting our disputes be arbitrated by the World Court. Sen. Morse, now a Democrat but still from Oregon, has worked up enough votes inside the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to override this veto but says Chairman Fulbright claims the time is not ripe to test a vote on the Senate floor.

So when President Johnson places the United States on record as willing to accept arbitration of the Vietnam war under the auspices of the United Nations, this is real history. It's a history-making precedent the communists and non-aligned Africans are very foolish to reject.

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Drew Pearson will make a prediction regarding war of peace in Vietnam over WTOF radio at 6:40 tonight.