



Statement by Lord Callaghan



SHIELD

After the tragedies we have witnessed in recent years, there can be no doubt that the world would be a safer and more secure place if the nations could one day reach agreement on a world system of international law. If it were to be effective, it would need to be acceptable to all and enforceable.

When the Charter of the United Nations was agreed, those who designed it looked forward to such a possibility, but any progress was pushed into the background by the Cold War. In truth, whatever the circumstances, there are several problems in defining its range. For example, in what circumstances would intervention in the affairs of another country be justified; who would exercise authority over an international force, whether armed or not; should intervention be justified only on breach of the peace grounds or should it be extended to breaches of human rights or on humanitarian grounds?

These are very practical problems that must be faced, but despite them, nothing but good will come from people thinking about and debating these issues, and Mr Stonor makes a very useful contribution to the discussions.

Rt Hon Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG