

WHOM DO YOU CALL IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE?

Here is a popular bumpersticker from the turbulent 1960s in America: "If you hate cops, when you're in trouble, call a hippy!" This was a time when the word "pig" had become almost synonymous with "policeman" among the progressive, longhaired and hip. It was usually prefaced with the word "fascist".

The advice wasn't meant to be followed. It was meant to point out that the presence of police is an indispensable tool without which a civilized society cannot exist. Sam Goldwyn had famously said that a verbal contract isn't worth the paper it is written on. It is even more true that a law that cannot be enforced is also worthless. I am certain that when trouble strikes even the most militant ACLU-inspired critic of police, would hold his nose, overcome his convictions and dial 911.

There are societies where the police are corrupt or don't have the power to enforce the law. Today's Russia, most African countries and a number of South American nations are an example of the former; today's Iraq is a good example of the latter. Even so, it is better to have bad police than no police at all – otherwise rule by armed, brutal and conscienceless gangs will surely follow.

This is so obvious that it puzzles me that so many intelligent people who wouldn't want to live in a neighborhood, city or country without police protection do not realize the need for a world policeman for the safety of all humanity. It is also obvious that the U.N., a body that was initially meant to be a parliament of all nations has neither the means nor the will to enforce its own decisions. It is largely irrelevant to the resolution of crises that, at worst, threaten to destroy much of mankind, and at the very least, involve genocidal and homicidal activities by some U.N. members.

The U.N. goes about its business of discussing, debating, deliberating, voting and resolving as if it made the slightest bit of difference to either the perpetrators or the victims.

Since its founding, the U.N. – with just one exception - has not been able to claim a single success in settling wars, bringing and enforcing peace, arresting and punishing perpetrators or, in fact, doing anything more than passing meaningless resolutions. It was unable or unwilling to help in the occupation of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Tibet and

parts of Germany and Japan and South Vietnam by communist armed forces. It was unable or unwilling to act in the genocidal conflicts that pervaded much of Africa and Asia – the most recent are Darfur, Rwanda and Burundi, but there were many more: Biafra, Kashmir, Uganda, Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Armenia vs. Azerbaijan, Cuban troops in Angola, Saddam's genocide of the Kurds, the strife in the Middle East, the ridiculous "war" between Argentina and U.K. over the Falkland Islands and the crisis in Yugoslavia that was solved *after* the U.N. was shown to be powerless.

. It is unable to do anything about the destruction of the economy of formerly prosperous countries like Zimbabwe or Kenya, the starvation and gulags of North Korea or the civil war in Chechnya. The only success the U.N. can claim was the result of a Soviet blunder in boycotting the Security Council deliberations on the attack of South Korea by North Korea in 1950. Soviet absence enabled overwhelmingly American troops, with a relatively small foreign contingent, to fight under the U.N. flag and save South Korea from communist occupation.

History of the last century has proved that if you are in trouble there is only one number that should be dialed and it isn't that of the League of Nations in the 1920s and 30s, or the U.N. since 1945. The international 911 number is spelled USA. If America doesn't do it – no one else will.

I am not happy with America's role as a world policeman. It is expensive in lives and treasure. It is painful to have Americans die, unappreciated, on foreign soil. But the world would be an unimaginably horrible place if there were no U.S. to be the policeman for the world. Without America, the post-W.W.II Soviet superpower would dominate Europe and there would be no Israel in the Soviet Middle East. Asia – including Japan and Korea - would be united under communism.

What is obvious, especially after the recent Hezbollah/Israel conflict is that no one – not Europe and not the U.N. - can keep the peace. U.N. representatives are already reassuring all interested parties that their soldiers wouldn't have to fight anyone if they should go to Lebanon under the U.N. banner, but they cannot assemble even a fraction of the 15,000 bodies that are needed.

The U.N. is now in the process of issuing its 3rd deadline to Iran and soon might make a few more threats to North Korea. And there is no stopping the Russian and Chinese arms that Iran sends to Hezbollah via Syria.

If you hate war and are in trouble, call the U.N. You can be sure that there will be no war and no fighting. But if you really need help, call America and, if it can, America will respond. Just don't thank America afterwards – very few have.