

worldview

A JOURNAL OF RELIGION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

AFTER TWO YEARS

With this issue *Worldview* completes two years of publication, and it seems a good time to pause and examine the journal's purpose, direction and future plans.

This is "a journal of religion and international affairs." An editorial in its first number announced that *Worldview* would be concerned with the broad area of ethics and foreign policy "as a baffling and heart-breaking problem, not an accomplishment." At all times, among all nations, a tension between ethics and foreign policy seems inevitable. In the world of 1958, when thermonuclear weapons have brought a new dimension of destruction into history, the tension is infinitely heightened. *Worldview* will seek to explore the implications of this fact."

The tensions, of course, are no nearer "solution" now than they were two years ago, and anyone who has looked to this journal for ready answers must surely have been disappointed. What *Worldview* has tried to do is to discover the problems and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas. And it believes that here it does not merely duplicate the efforts of other magazines.

There are, for example, other journals that are concerned, week by week and month by month, with questions of religion and international affairs. One thinks of *Christianity and Crisis* and *The Commonweal*, or of *America* and *The Christian Century*. But these publications are written and edited from a specifically Protestant or a Catholic point of view. *Worldview* is "interfaith" in the most genuine sense of the term and thus provides a meeting place for writers from the various religious traditions. This is its special function, and because of it the journal should be able to make a unique contribution toward the clarification of problems that are common to us all, and which demand whatever illumination the various religious traditions can bring to them. We share a common fate, and our best hope lies in the sharing of our insights.

We hope that in its first two years this magazine has begun a process of intellectual exchange, of dialogue, which can be steadily deepened. We hope also that its range, both of writers and of readers, can be significantly expanded. A publication like *Worldview* can never hope (indeed, *should* never hope, if it is to maintain its character) to reach a mass audience or directly to influence popular opinion. But it can be of (perhaps great) value to that smaller audience which is deeply concerned, either personally or professionally, with the issues of ethics, security and survival in the modern world. It is for this audience that *Worldview* is written and edited; it is to this audience that the journal must look for its influence and future.

As we enter the decade of the 1960's it seems clear that the post-war period has finally ended and that an era of new perils, and new possibilities, is about to begin. The world continues to hover on the brink of nuclear suicide and the moral challenge of disarmament must continue to haunt us, but it seems less likely now than in the past ten years that the two super-powers will choose to solve their rivalry through the ultimate folly of war.

What seems likely is that we are moving into an era of fierce economic and political competition, a time when both the United States and the Soviet Union will turn their major attention to the underdeveloped areas of Asia and Africa, to problems of the world's exploding population and the measures needed to secure it from starvation and disease and death.

The insights and imperatives of religion must not be absent from this coming era, or irrelevant to it. The forces of materialism and cynicism must not be the only ones which shape this world. As *Worldview*, in the new decade, begins its third year of publication, it will hope to provide a continually more important forum where men of divergent views, but of common concerns, can meet to examine the great ethical challenges of their time and place.