Increasing attacks by certain groups in this country on the United Nations, its specialized agencies and some of its most important and promising projects make it clear that a carefully-planned offensive has been launched to undermine the confidence of the American people in the role of international organization and international law in the maintenance of peace and the protection of human rights.

This offensive, if unchallenged and unchecked, can fatally impair our international leadership in the fight for a free world and destroy those international instruments and concepts on which the hopes of men everywhere for peace and freedom rest.

The leaders of this offensive have chosen as their chief targets the United Nations Covenant on Human Rights and the Genocide Convention. Evidently they are prepared to wreck the machinery of international cooperation rather than permit it to function for the effective protection and extension of human rights. The charge that these United Nations proposals are inconsistent with our Constitution is so clumsy an interpretation of either the requirements of American law or the texts of these conventions as to cast serious doubts on the good faith of those advancing the arguments.

We therefore call on all who are concerned with the evolution of a peaceful and just society to join in repudiating those who seek to insulate America from the rest of the world. We call on our Government to demonstrate that it will not yield to these attacks by pressing more vigorously for effective use of the machinery of the United Nations for the protection of human rights.

We particularly urge

1. That the Administration take leadership in securing Senate ratification of the UN Genocide Convention. Our failure to ratify this Convention outlawing mass murder, and already approved by more than 35 countries, cannot be explained in any terms consistent with elementary honor, morality and responsibility.

2. That the United States Mission to the United Nations support procedures for enforcement of the United Nations Human Rights Covenant by extending the right of petition to accredited non-governmental organizations. Limiting the right to invoke the covenant to national governments makes international enforcement of human rights a diplomatic rather than a ju-
dicial process and therefore largely ineffective.

Meaningful American action on these problems will demonstrate both to our own citizens and to the world our determination to continue to lead in strengthening the United Nations and in developing international cooperation for human freedom. Such action will give new courage to those who have been misleadingly disheartened by the attacks of groups who have remained untouched by the events of the past thirty years.