Our world is growing rapidly smaller. The actions of one nation influence the welfare of another nation to an increasing extent. We are becoming more interdependent. The idea of sovereignty of nations, like the freedom of the individual, must become limited.

There are two possibilities: Either there will be freedom under law and sovereignty under international law or there will be a worldwide tyranny which will destroy both the freedom of the individuals and the sovereignty of nations.

One of the essential elements in preserving our freedom will be the establishment of the proper kind of law. Such law cannot become valid without some agency of law enforcement which as yet does not exist. Nevertheless our hopes of a free world are necessarily tied to the development and enforcement of international law.

By the year 2008 (in which year I would become 100 years old) this question will have lost interest: Either because its solution will be well known to every student of law, or because tyranny will have dispensed with the necessity of law as we know it.

Edward Teller

May 19, 1958