L A Times Carries Nobel Winner on Need for World Government

By JACK MOTLEY, former Navy officer and longtime world-governmentalist.

The Los Angeles Times, one of the nation’s leading newspapers in prestige, influence, circulation and advertising income, published an article in its Opinion section calling for world law and justice by way of a world security system “involving a first step toward world government.”

The article by Roger W. Sperry of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, appeared in a Sunday edition, Oct. 5, headlined, “Toward a Higher System of World Law and Justice”. The piece occupied 44 inches of space in four columns, including an illustration by Bob Colvin, showing a man trying to roll back a huge, ignited bomb.

According to a footnote, the article was adapted from a book, Voices of Survival, by Prof. Sperry — since published by Capra Press. The author, who teaches psychobiology, won the 1981 Nobel Prize in physiology, for his split-brain research. His book before Voices is Science and Moral Priority.

Many people — especially including world governmentists — consider the Times a great newspaper because it allows great freedom of expression to its reporters, writers, commentators, cartoonists and writers of letters to the editors.

Prof. Sperry began his article published Oct. 5 with, “The time has passed when nations should be allowed to do as they individually wish with regard to global matters, each striving solely in its own interests, with the more powerful now able to destroy all humanity and more.”

For the common good, he went on, the people of the world need to frame and abide by a higher system of law and justice in order to settle disputes peacefully, fairly, and thereby preserve the human environment. He pointed out that the intellectual, scientific and moral foundations of world government are in sight.

The Caltech professor’s new book, edited by Dennis Paulson, is expected to be followed by more in the same vein. The book review editor of World Peace News — a World Government Report — reviews Voices of Survival in this WPN starting on page one. No doubt other peace publications will get to Prof. Sperry’s contribution to it, too.

Little hope exists that there can be control of nuclear armaments in the absence of a world security force with both the power and the know-how to do the job, he says in his Times article. In the absence of a world security force structured to be able to do the job, how can it be hoped that existing weaponry will be dismantled?

In his fourth paragraph of the LA Times article, Prof. Sperry says “it all” — with optimism.

“The problems of setting up and administering an effective, international force of this kind — involving a first step toward world government — can hardly be more grave, formidable or insoluble than those we are destined to encounter on any alternative course.”

Of course there will be problems. To break them down, he asks why not create a world security force as a first step toward world government? He thinks that any alternative that does not contemplate steps toward world government will be much more dangerous than setting up a world security force.

He advises that people think positively about ways to proceed. Do not go along with the prevailing lack of wisdom that such a solution is impossible, he advises, apparently alluding to many advances once thought impossible: abolition of slavery, achievement of women’s suffrage, inventions, going to the moon, creation through constitutional law of federal government. All once thought impossible.

Although Prof. Sperry gives a gentle pat on the head to the United Nations as a possible helper, he writes that new thinking and creative strategies are needed. He calls on high school and college students — and the news mediums — to come up with suggestions and ways and means.

Excerpts:

“A starting precondition ... is a formula for determining representation and voting strength that will assure participant nations they will not suffer an unfair loss in relative power, living standards, prestige...”

“The countries of the world are today sufficiently interrelated and interdependent that, working together through a properly constituted, world governing body, they could bring any recalcitrant nation — even the United States or the Soviet Union — into compliance... instead of dwelling on the complexities and difficulties, we can get busy ironing out the issues and looking for creative solutions.”

“Principles for law and justice will be needed that all countries can respect, support and agree to be ruled by, regardless of differing ideologies, religious beliefs, cultural values, political biases, and so on.”

“Just as in the United States, states’ rights are respected and protected against federal intervention, one presumes a world security system would not usurp the rights of nations to govern their own internal affairs much as they always have, with the exception of a few things such as nuclear armaments, pollution of the oceans and atmosphere, and so on.”

“In the past, the choice has been between materialist explanations of natural science on the one hand, or various mystical, supernatural schemes of religious faith, on the other. The new stance of science rejects both of these, in favor of a newly perceived third choice that integrates both the physical and metaphysical into a consistent view of ourselves and the world. The new outlook manages to incorporate the empirical and the ethical, both what is objectively valid and what is subjectively valued.”