Sloan faces SDS

By Bert Halsted

Dr. Kenneth Boulding last Friday chided society for never having pressed its resources toward peace as an ultimate objective.

The Boulding criticism was expressed during a lecture, "Peace as An Attainable Goal," the most recent talk of the MIT Lecture Series on World Peace.

Boulding, the author of several books such as "The Economics of Peace and Peace and the War Industry," stated that in the past peace has been wished for, prayed for, and even fought for. However, it has never been programmed or planned for, like landing on the moon.

A good reason for this, he said, is that "civilization is based on threats." Fortuitously, according to Boulding, things are changing in the Twentieth Century — "Civilization is passing away."

Boulding identified three different concepts of peace. The first is external or international peace — peace between nations. Then comes internal or civil peace. The third is the so-called "positive peace," which seems to Boulding an unobtainable dream. The "abolition of all evil" such as injustice and poverty. He warned against the danger of extending the meaning of "peace" to include the "peaceful coexistence of states." He then went on to explain why he is optimistic about the prospects for international peace in particular. Studies have shown that there is no strong correlation between internal and external peace, nor between the personal aggressiveness of the people and external wars. Neither is there any link between economics or ideology. The conclusion, then, is that the international system is fairly isolated from other aspects of society, and perhaps if we know what it is dynamics are, we can change them.

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