

38 204

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

47427-18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ART MIGHTIER THAN ATOM

D'HARNONCOURT ASSERTS CREATIVE LIFE RATHER THAN POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS MUST POINT
WAY TO PEACE

"We know now that no amount of armaments and political negotiations based on fear will give us permanent security until we assert our passion for a full and creative life in a positive will to peace," René d'Harnoncourt, Trustee of the Museum of Modern Art and Director of its Curatorial Departments, stated in the closing address of the 5th Annual Conference of the Committee on Art Education yesterday afternoon (Sunday, April 27.). More than 600 persons from all parts of the country attended the various sessions of the Conference held this weekend at the Museum of Modern Art. Hundreds more were turned away for lack of space.

Dramatic emphasis was given Mr. d'Harnoncourt's talk by the color film, Bikini tests, U. S. Navy Release, OPERATIONS CROSSROADS which was shown at the concluding session at which Mr. d'Harnoncourt spoke. The high points of Mr. d'Harnoncourt's speech were as follows:

"UNESCO represents something entirely new in the history of international organizations. It is an international body devoted to the maintenance of peace through the media of science, education and culture.

"It is true that the last hundred years saw the creation of many international organizations dedicated to the furthering of education, the arts and sciences, but their aim was simply the advancement of their particular subjects on a world-wide scale. The fact that UNESCO is dedicated to the use of culture, education and science as tools for the creation of a new and peaceful world demonstrates that statesmen and politicians have finally had to recognize culture as an intrinsic factor of society that influences man's entire destiny. It is significant that this recognition of the importance of culture comes at a time when material progress, guided by politics, has brought the world to the brink of self-destruction. We know that no amount of armaments and political negotiations based on fear will give us permanent security until we assert our passion for a full and creative life in a positive will to peace.

"To fulfill its purpose, UNESCO must concern itself with the eradication of all these existing prejudices that lead to war and demonstrate that the progress and happiness of mankind depend on the cooperation of all nations in the cultural development of the world as a whole.

"UNESCO's function as an agency concerned with the development of international cooperation in cultural matters deals with the interchange of artists, scientists and educators, with the world-wide distribution of their work and gives assistance to centers and organizations devoted to similar purposes.

39
205

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

-2-

"Only a few people are aware of the importance of the arts in such a program. Many of us are accustomed to consider them either a luxury reserved for the rich or a leisure-time activity. We seem to have forgotten that the arts are the foremost expressions and interpretations of man's beliefs and aspirations and permeate every one of his activities. They are, in fact, indispensable for the real understanding of any nation or any group of people and without them, international understanding and collaboration would be impossible.

"UNESCO, as part of the United Nations, functions through the services extended to it by the various governments of the member nations. It is from them that it receives its powers and its funds. Considering the objectives of UNESCO, it becomes clear that any effective action in the field of culture, science and art can only be carried out if the people of the world concerned with these fields cooperate with their governments."

Mr. d'Harnoncourt was Senior Counsellor, UNESCO, summer of 1946.

His talk at the closing session of the Art Conference at the Museum was entitled

ART IN UNESCO: Art as a Tool in Building a New World.