

## LEBENSRAUM IN LIMBO

*"The Steering Committee agreed to put these items on the Assembly agenda: Cyprus; the Algerian question; racial issues in South Africa; and control of outer space."* (London News-Chronicle report by its U.N. correspondent.)

Control of Outer Space! It's no mere question  
Of Martian aborigines or Kaffirs  
On Venus, nor some limited suggestion  
Such as Jules Verne or Wells or other gaffers  
Made for short trips within the Solar System,  
But worlds so numerous no man can list 'em.

What's going on? Is the United Nations  
Cognizant of some inter-stellar friction?  
Or stands terrestrial peace upon foundations  
So firm that they must turn to science fiction,  
Seeking new worlds to pacify? The riddle  
Suggests some new, unprecedented fiddle.

Perchance Trusteeship, through the Fourth Committee,  
Hot from its triumphs, multiple and various  
(E.g., in South West Africa), has pity  
On poor, oppressed and over-worked Aquarius—  
Or is it just that they are getting wearier  
Of Cyprus, the Hereros and Algeria?

Or did some late-deceased, sound Kaffir-baiter  
(His naked soul immaculately racial)  
Having denounced his Maker as a traitor,  
Voortrekking from His wrath, become a special  
Baas in some corner of the Empyrean,  
Henceforth to be forever European?

And have the U.N. delegates (offended  
By this dead donkey's distant racial braying)  
The confidence contemptibly pretended  
When 'Sacred Trusts' became a Cynic Saying?  
*Will they control the stars, when one small planet  
Barely survives to say how well they ran it?*

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