

\* We can be sure that some mechanism, whether it be nation states acting on their own, regional groupings or alliances, or the United Nations itself, will continue in the years ahead to be required to do this job. If it is to be well done, we need the broadest possible consensus of world opinion and the United Nations is the best place for us to find that consensus.

Peace keeping is one dimension of the problem of maintaining peace and security in the world today. Disarmament is another.

For the first time in human history, we have achieved something close to absolute military power. We have come to assume that the destructive power we wield will deter us from ever using it. That, at any rate, is the assumption that lies at the root of the conception of "nuclear deterrence". But this is not a state of things we can look upon with any degree of complacency.

In the first place, we are faced with the prospect of a diffusion of nuclear capability. Secondly, it is surely paradoxical that, in a century which has seen man achieve greater control over his environment than any preceding century, we should not be able to build a better and more peaceful world order except under the compulsion of the law of fear. These considerations underline the need for early progress in the field of disarmament.

Your Federation has demonstrated a deep understanding of the realities of disarmament. It will come as no surprise to you, therefore, if I suggest that the principal problem in the field of disarmament before us today is how to limit the further spread of nuclear weapons. And, when I speak of the spread of nuclear weapons, I mean an increase in the number of states possessing independent military nuclear capabilities.

So far, we have pursued this objective in two main directions. First, we have acted to safeguard the transfer of nuclear materials and equipment from one country to another in order to ensure that they are used only for peaceful purposes. The atom, of course, is capable of a wide range of peaceful uses, of which the supply of energy is only one. We must anticipate that, as time goes by, the atom will become an increasingly important agent in the scientific and technological revolution we are witnessing all around us. There is no sense in inhibiting that development. Indeed, there is every reason for encouraging it.

But we cannot ignore the fact that the atom can be used for war as well as for peace. As the peaceful uses of the atom become more widely diffused, more and more nations are inevitably being placed in a position of having the potential capacity to produce nuclear weapons of their own. This situation is coming about without these countries necessarily wishing to acquire a military nuclear capacity. It is coming about without any conscious determination on their part.