

we must soon find the right answer to this question, for time may be running out. While most members recognize the proven value of the United Nations and want it to continue in effective being, with a substantial role in our world, there are signs of decline and deterioration which could threaten its future use, its very existence.

Fortunately, there are also signs of improvement in relations between the "super-powers" which give the UN a new opportunity. There is a little more benevolence, a little less bitterness.

The United Nations is a unique political mirror reflecting, often magnifying, occasionally distorting, the dreams and the distresses of men. So what will the 18th Assembly show?

The picture could be a more cheerful one.

The feeling today of crisis and collision is not as oppressive as it has been in the recent past. There is an encouraging contrast between the international climate at this General Assembly and that which hung like a dark shadow over the last.

None of the great issues has been resolved. There is recurring tension in and around Berlin; in Laos and Vietnam; in parts of Africa; along the Sino-Indian frontier; in the Caribbean and elsewhere. But there seems now to be more of a will to seek peaceful settlements. This improvement may soon fade before the test of policy and action, but it exists now. And we should take full advantage of it.

Its most striking evidence is the recent partial nuclear test ban treaty between the three nuclear powers, since adhered to by more than 90 states.

Even by itself, that treaty is immensely valuable in putting to an end the poisoning of the atmosphere which sustains all life on our planet.

But it must be viewed beyond its own terms. It showed that great powers were able to agree on something important in spite of the fears and tensions of cold war. The global sigh of relief that followed the treaty was due not only to the ending of atmospheric pollution but to a feeling of hope for