

Those of you who follow closely the affairs of the United Nations know that for almost a decade increasing attention has been directed to the search for mechanisms to narrow the economic gap between developed and developing countries -- the so-called North-South dialogue. Inevitably, this process will eventually require the diversion of a significant proportion of the world's resources to those nations most in need of economic development. Today, it is generally conceded that this task is of paramount importance. Indeed, there are those who argue that it is more than simply desirable; they feel it is vital if the international economic order is not to fall into stagnation and chaos.

Efforts to achieve a more just economic order must consist of a number of initiatives, many of which have been discussed intensively for some time. In general, they are most aptly and comprehensively considered in the report of the Brandt Commission. Today, I wish to discuss one of those initiatives -- one which is rooted in the relationship between development and disarmament.

Development and disarmament have been linked, particularly by the developing nations, for obvious reasons -- reasons which the Brandt Report elaborated at some length. I quote in part:

"The armaments of the superpowers and their alliances represent a precarious kind of balance which, given present political