

Further decisions must soon be made or else achievements to date will be jeopardized with all of the consequences that this would entail. Whatever the method or forum, I urge all parties to recognize the force of change, and to move away from confrontation and violence to moderation and compromise.

(TRANSLATION)

Mr. President, the above situations are some, but by no means all, of those where there is a threat to world peace through resistance to change, or the recourse to arms to impose change. In different ways, they serve to illustrate the need to abandon prevailing methods to resolve conflicts through collectively developed machinery rather than by reversion to the rule of force. The world will not become more stable in the next decade. Change will accelerate. There is a real probability that some may try to exploit vulnerability to their own advantage. Determination to channel and control the volatile impact of change into constructive, peaceful directions is necessary. First, however, we need to break away from old patterns of approach and attitude.

The North-South dialogue is an obvious example. We must recognize our global responsibilities, but resist the notion that every problem must have a global, generalized solution. I also think that there are issues, and stages of discussion, where bloc-to-bloc negotiation will be less useful. By illustration, I think of the Law of the Sea Conference. There a complicated array of different country groupings arranged to correspond to differing economic, political and even geographic interests, have wrestled with long-standing questions of principle and tradition. This method has enabled them to draft, in effect, a new constitution for two-thirds of the world's surface in the more pragmatic, realistic, and I believe productive, way which a pluralistic approach can afford. Change demands such departures from accepted dogma and I believe that our approach to North-South issues is clearly in need of both stimulation and reform.

(TEXT)

Another area of potential institutional improvement is the United Nations Secretariat itself. The office of the Secretary General has unique value as an instrument for attenuating conflict. The Government of Iran still keeps United States' diplomatic personnel hostages, almost a year after their forceful seizure. Although the tireless efforts of the Secretary General to arrange a solution have not yet achieved their objective, they illustrate the potential of his office for promoting solutions -- at least in other, less unreasonable and chaotic circumstances. In the past thirty-five