

Thus far the General Assembly in this Fifteenth Session has not given much promise for the future. But if we accomplish nothing else at this Session, we must try to speak with one voice in favour of resuming serious disarmament negotiations at the earliest possible time. We must check the drift, so noticeable in recent weeks, away from serious talks and in the direction of sterile propaganda debates.

This is the underlying intent and purpose of our joint draft resolution. The basic motives can be summed up in the language of the fourth paragraph of the preamble. It acknowledges that the co-sponsors - like the members of this Committee and indeed all the nations of the world - are "disturbed that despite agreement on the common goal of general and complete disarmament, negotiations are not proceeding." The paragraph is clearly intended as an expression of deep anxiety about the interruption of disarmament negotiations.

Because we are so deeply troubled by these developments, we believe strongly that the General Assembly must try to stop the deterioration in relations and turn the trend back to the path of negotiation. The draft resolution seeks to accomplish this by revitalizing the negotiating machinery. This thought finds expression in the fifth paragraph of the preamble which deems it "essential that preparations should be begun immediately to facilitate the earliest possible continuation of disarmament negotiations."

The co-sponsors view their proposals as expressing a universal desire and need. Hence, in the preamble, we have laid emphasis on unanimity by referring to resolutions adopted earlier by the General Assembly and by the Disarmament Commission. These unanimous decisions and recommendations provide us with a point of departure for our current deliberations. In the debate in this Committee and in the General Debate at the outset of the fifteenth session, almost without exception speakers have called for speedy action to deal effectively with disarmament.

In further acknowledgment of this widespread concern, we have recognized fully in the preamble that while the main responsibility