

For all these reasons, should the United Nations not now find a way to express its continuing interest in Laos? Such an approach, if it were welcome to Laos, could make a most valuable contribution to stability. We, for our part, have come to the view that some appropriate and continuing expression of United Nations concern is desirable, not only in the interest of the people of Laos, but also in the general interest of world peace and security.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I believe this session of the Assembly can go far to bring renewed hope to the people of all lands; they desire, above all else, permanent world peace. We meet in a period when there is some diminution in world tension - largely due to the friendly exchange of visits this year between the leaders of great powers. These visits could be the starting point on a new road which would lead away from all the friction and distrust which have developed since the Second World War. Whether or not they do lead in that direction may very well depend, in large measure, upon the words and actions of the delegates to the present Assembly - and I am sure that we will not fail to meet this great challenge.

S/C