

If we who are the members of this United Nations have the will to do so, we can accomplish anything we wish -- our Charter aims, the conservation of that fragile balance of nature on which we all depend for survival, the aspirations of people everywhere for a quality of life that is fit for human beings. Nor for cold computerized robots, or the lifeless masses of Orwell's 1984 but for warm and vital human beings -- the people for whom the Charter speaks.

Wherever we come from, whatever our constitutional forms, whatever credentials we hold, we are all here representing people. It is they who are the ultimate beneficiaries of what the United Nations does and the victims of what it leaves undone.

Our peoples now all know this, all round the globe. They can, via satellite and the other marvels of instant communication, watch us now, all the time. They will know if we fail them, why and how.

For people everywhere know today what they expect of us, even if they cannot always articulate their views or formulate their ideas. They want to have done with wars and weapons, to have done with social discriminations and economic disparities, to reduce hate and hypocrisy, pomp and pretence in human relations.

Acting in concert, we can, I believe, accomplish whatever we set out to do, provided our will to succeed is sustained and strong. We can find ways to reduce the tensions which threaten to erupt into world conflagration. We can find some equilibrium so that expanding populations will get an equitable share of the world's resources. We can reduce armaments in a manner which does not threaten the security of any country. We can deal with disparities which set the poor nations at odds with the rich. We can remove or reduce the ugly threats to our human environment.

These problems spill over national and regional frontiers, with no hope of effective unilateral control. Even if concerted action should evade our grasp for the moment, for reasons which are not entirely within our control, we cannot and should not seek to evade our responsibility either as individual members or groups of members. Our Charter obligations remain intact and nothing prevents us from discharging them unilaterally.

Individual nations can refrain from using force and violence in international relations. They are not compelled to devote ability and resources to produce nuclear weapons and others equally capable of mass destruction.

It is possible for them to allocate increasing amounts of resources to economic development and social progress, to environmental-control measures, to improving the quality of life. Individually, we can act within national boundaries to ensure that the dignity of man is assured.

If every nation represented here today does its utmost to put and keep its own house in order and to bring about friendly relations with other states, part of the great task of the United Nations will have been accomplished. If, as member nations, we come her in the knowledge that everything we can do within our own jurisdictions has been done -- and I do not suggest that any nation here today can make that claim --, we shall find fewer problems to face -- and those that remain less difficult.