

we have been seeking all along in the field of disarmament. In this, as in so many other matters, we should not be perfectionists. As long as our security would be significantly increased, even if it is not completely ensured, we should take in this field the steps which we are fully capable of taking now and which may yet facilitate the solution of other problems which have directly contributed to the international tension.

My three propositions boil down to this. All parties must and do recognize the facts of life on nuclear prohibition at the present time. But let us nevertheless proceed with as large and significant a measure of disarmament as is now possible as well as with effective arrangements for early warning against surprise attack. At the same time our scientists will be doing their utmost to provide the answers on total nuclear prohibition which remains our policy and our goal.

Given their intricate character and their connection with political issues, it is evident to me that, if any progress is to be achieved, the disarmament problems must be discussed under the most favourable conditions. From that point of view the Assembly may consider as we suggest in the draft resolution that the Sub-committee may remain of value as a negotiating instrument. Whenever necessary its discussions should assume a confidential character which is clearly conducive to better results. Further, the Committee has already explored the field and prepared the ground. Therefore, if only the will to advance were there, it would be possible in the Sub-Committee with the available material to continue the work already undertaken and to develop the kind of plan which I am convinced could be carried out effectively.

The world will not be concerned whether success is achieved through this or that approach nor will it understand delays because of preoccupation with details of timing or authorship. Once it is satisfied that a workable solution is possible, public opinion in all countries will insist that all other considerations should be subordinated to the imperative necessity of arriving at an answer and that no other objections except those relating genuinely to the practicability or effectiveness of the plan will be entertained.

In order to succeed we are not required to perform a miracle, to arrange for the intervention of a genius. All that is needed of us is the exercise of normal moderation, the willingness to behave sensibly, having in mind the common interest. I refuse to believe that under such circumstances we will not reach our objective, assured peace through collective and controlled, if temporarily limited, disarmament. Under no circumstances do we abandon our main objective. We still believe the time is at hand for a resolution of this difficult problem.

LIBRARY E A / BIBLIOTHÈQUE A E



9 87194010 4505 3