

You have concentrated in your letter on territorial and border disputes. This is but one aspect of a larger problem, and I hope you will agree that other disputes should also be settled by peaceful means only. In the present age, other types of disputes can be just as critical and can therefore lead to just as dangerous and potentially explosive situations as can disputes over frontiers. In any further exploration of the problem, therefore, our range of discussion should include disputes arising from any and all causes. It is unreasonable to assert that, although the use of force must be eschewed in territorial and border disputes, it is acceptable in disputes to which anyone chooses to give the arbitrary appellation of, for example, "wars of liberation". It is inadequate, in my view, to emphasize the prohibition of the use of direct and overt force only and to make no attempt to outlaw subversion, infiltration by trained guerillas, and the supply of arms to insurrectionary forces -- all of which are, as I am sure you realize, the cause of dangerous tensions in a great many parts of the world today.

I should be also less than frank with you if I did not state that my own interpretation of various events and situations described in your letter -- for example, some of your references to military bases abroad, colonialism and imperialism -- differs in certain respects from your own. I am convinced, however, that responsible and reasonable discussions and negotiations depend to a great extent on the avoidance of unnecessarily controversial interpretation of situations from which tensions between states arise. Hence although we seem to be some distance apart on several aspects of the problem, I should like to try to bridge the gap, and it is for this reason that I am making these comments and suggestions aimed at achievement of the goal you proclaim.