

Q. There have been some efforts towards balanced force reductions on both sides. Do you see any response coming from the Eastern side?

A. There's been a minimum response. Six months ago we asked the Warsaw Pact countries to respond to a suggestion from the NATO countries that we were prepared to discuss mutual and balanced force reductions. The response from the Warsaw Pact countries was that they were willing to talk about foreign troops--balanced reductions of foreign troops. We had included in our proposal, of course, indigenous forces. At first we wondered whether foreign forces meant just those that were outside of Europe, like the American forces, whether the response was simply that the Americans should withdraw, but it didn't appear so, it appeared as if foreign troops were meant to be troops that were foreign to the country in which they were located. Our view is that this is an opening, and that we should move on from the presence of foreign troops and their reduction to the reduction of indigenous forces--that there is a chink in the armour, one might say, in the Iron Curtain, and that it ought to be taken advantage of.

Q. Well, there seems to have been some progress on disarmament with the agreement on the Seabed Arms Treaty. What chance do you see of further agreements?

A. There are many opportunities, it seems to me, for progress and agreements. Everything depends upon how willing the countries are to make progress. The Seabed Arms Control Treaty, which was negotiated a few days ago, will probably come into force in 1971. We're going to press again very hard for a ban on underground nuclear tests to supplement the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty. We've been looking at this question of international seismic capacity. It seems to us if we could find out how effective the countries of the world working together could be in detecting explosions, this would at least give us a factual basis for proceeding further on the underground nuclear tests, and we sponsored a resolution calling on all countries to contribute their seismic capabilities. We've been talking about mutual and balanced force reductions, well, this is another aspect of some possible progress in disarmament. On chemical and biological warfare, there's been the recent American announcement that they're going to destroy all their stocks. We're working for a convention to supplement the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which would prohibit the development, production and stockpiling as a means of waging chemical and biological warfare. It isn't an easy task because you've got the problems of tear gas and things of that kind. And then finally, while progress has not been startling, it does appear as if the Americans and the Russians are moving ahead with their SALT talks--Strategic Arms Limitations Talks. They are the most important diplomatic negotiations going on in the world today, because if we could find some way of limiting the stockpiling of nuclear