

The ideological divisions, the mistrust, the enmities are too deep to permit any giant steps or grand designs leading to global harmony. This is not a reason for discouragement or worse, cynicism. There is much that can be done to reduce tensions, to extend economic development, to improve respect for human rights --and the United Nations system is doing this in an unheralded way.

Though patience is required, there is no time for complacency. For the turbulence the world is passing through as we learn how to use modern technology for good rather than evil has created an urgent situation. A global maturation must take place. But there is no time. There are too many people suffering, too much political frustration, too much fear of nuclear devastation to allow a mood of contemplation. Damage control to get the world safely into the next century is the highest priority.

I start my new work with a predominant thought.

As Einstein warned us, the implications of the first atomic explosion demand a change in our traditional thinking. Those who have been arguing that nuclear weapons are merely new weapons more technologically advanced have been having too easy a time in the public discourse on this subject. It needs to be emphasized that nuclear weapons are a totally new force threatening the continuation of life on earth and hence must be subject to a new kind of legal control. The further development of international law through the treaty-making process is urgent.