

As a member of the Sub-Committee, I can say that I have personally been encouraged by the spirit in which the representatives on the Disarmament Sub-Committee, or four others of them, have approached their task and I am confident that the hope which we all share for an agreement which would reduce the burden of armaments and lessen the threat of war, could be achieved if we are all determined and if we are prepared to dedicate our efforts.

My final observation is this: I cannot naturally interpret the intentions of the Soviet Union in this matter. I must say quite frankly that the request at this time to hold a meeting of this Commission in the light of the timetable ahead, in the light of the work of the General Assembly, in the light of the Foreign Ministers' meeting, is a difficult intention to assess. When we began our meetings on August 28, or thereabouts, I gathered, and I assume we all gathered, that there was a determination that our work in the Sub-Committee should not in any way impair the effectiveness of what was called the "spirit of Geneva", a spirit that was given to the world by the Heads of the four most powerful governments, perhaps, at the present time. Now, we will not gain in our common objectives if for some technical consideration anyone of our delegations moves against the temper and the manner which have characterized certainly the meetings of the Sub-Committee and all the meetings of the General Assembly since August 28. But we would not be true to the leadership of the Geneva spirit if, at this Assembly, now or later, for purely technical considerations, we moved this subject out of the real perspective of the meetings of Geneva. This problem has, by no means, been resolved and it will not be resolved unless this spirit is maintained. And it is with those thoughts in mind that I trust that all my colleagues at this table will approach our task in the light of the particular exigencies of the moment, in the light of our capacity to interpret the purposes and the intentions and the general indications of the interim report that is now before us. If we fail in this task, we will not only fail the spirit of Geneva, we will fail the people of the world all over, in every country, who are looking to us for constructive action.

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