

Mr. Chairman, I began by saying that this Conference must demonstrate to the United Nations General Assembly that we have done what is humanly possible to fulfil the high responsibilities which they have given us. In our task we have become the servants of the entire world. Humanity will be our judge and, if we fail, it will judge us harshly. We must never forget that while we negotiate the entire world looks on, watching our performance. There is an urgency about our work which grows day by day, as the arms race spirals on. The worst judgment which history could make would be that we failed because we did not try hard enough.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion my principal purpose in addressing this Conference is to lay this point squarely before you: this is the time and this is the place for action on disarmament; if we cannot make progress in this Committee, which is ideally constituted for the purpose, then what real possibility remains for coping with this most vital problem facing mankind?

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