

Can humanity come to grips with this compelling agenda? For some, the horizons appear dark. But I believe that, along with the undeniable destructive power in our hands, we have also acquired the power to protect and sustain life. Science and technology have given us the tools to build a world beyond war. Agricultural systems can feed the world. Medicine can meet the basic health needs of all people. Ecology enables us to understand complex systems. Psychology provides understanding of the root causes of hate and violence. Communications technology provides the tools to bring the world together.

A key to moving the world to a high stage of civilization is to understand the full meaning of security in the modern age.

Nations arm because they feel their security to be threatened, and each nation will judge its own security on its own terms. Only when the threat to security is lessened is real disarmament possible. But the paradox of our time is that the inflated arms race itself becomes a threat to security. Moreover, we now see that the huge suffering caused by under-development is itself a growing non-military threat to security. Working constructively on all aspects of security -- military, political, economic, social, humanitarian, human rights -- creates conditions conducive to disarmament; it also provides the environment conducive to the pursuit of successful development. Thus our purpose must be to increase real security -- for individual nations and for the world -- by finding politically possible ways to spend less money on arms and more on development.

The Reykjavik Summit -- and its extensions at Washington and Moscow -- focusses the attention of the world on the new possibilities for creative thinking to resolve the problems of conflict and deprivation that still afflict large areas of the world. A basis has been laid for what the Palme Commission calls "extraordinary progress."

"An opportunity exists for the 1980's to witness what only seemed to be a dream but which now can become real: concrete accomplishments in disarmament, stability and peace."