

Conclusion

I have tried to identify some of the most important opportunities that at last seem to be unfolding before us, particularly in the areas of strategic-arms limitations, a comprehensive test ban and a chemical-weapons treaty. Because it relates, *inter alia*, to fundamental questions of nations' perceptions of their security interests, arms control and disarmament is a difficult uphill task and the past has been fraught with frustration. There are, however, grave and pressing dangers inherent in a failure to make real progress. Moreover, other more constructive demands on the resources of all of us make clear that our efforts must be pursued with renewed determination.

It is right that we make every effort to consider as analytically and objectively as possible the issues I have described. Emotion will not help us to understand properly the intricacies and the magnitude of the challenge of disarmament or to devise effective means to deal with them. Yet we must never lose sight of the underlying supreme task — to ensure the security of us all by reducing, and ultimately eliminating, the risk of war. Dare we hope that this year, perhaps more than in many previous years, we are on the verge of significant progress in this vital direction?

S/C