

as well. If one is to condemn the use of force, one must also condemn provocations to the use of force.

We have looked with hope, therefore, to the Warsaw negotiations to arrest the dangerous drift towards war in the Far East. If, unhappily, we should be disappointed in this, then, Mr. President, I think that we would come to the point when the United Nations must recognize the existence of a serious threat to the peace and examine in what way it could use its good offices to avert a conflagration in the Far East. Such a threat to peace cannot be ignored by the Security Council if bilateral negotiations fail. The Security Council might itself hear the views of the contending parties, or it might be more appropriate in this delicate situation to make use of one or other of the various methods of seeking agreement by private discussion which the United Nations has found efficacious in the past. I doubt, however, if a contentious debate in this chamber would be of present help in the circumstances.

The first necessity is, of course, to put a stop to the firing of guns and other warlike activities. For, so long as the islands are subjected to active blockade and its defenders convoy in their supplies against the blockade, it is obvious that even an accidental armed clash might precipitate a general conflict, even though no one desired it. Surely it is not beyond our power, or our will, to find the basis of a cease-fire under equitable conditions which would give some assurance that peaceful negotiation of the disposition of the islands would, in fact, take place.

Such steps, then, are immediately imperative. We believe also that thought must now be given, by all concerned, to the unravelling of the twisted situation which has produced the present crisis off the China coast. A peaceful solution of the dispute over the Chinese off-shore islands could be a first encouraging step in this direction. The primary responsibility for the distrust and conflict which are at the root of the trouble in Eastern Asia lies in the communist record of aggressive and arrogant behaviour towards those who are not of their persuasion -- a record which can only, in small part, be excused by reference to the past sins of other imperialisms. We dare not forget the past and present activities of Chinese Communism in Korea and throughout Southern Asia, nevertheless, the adjustments necessary for peaceful solutions require us all to examine the contributions which we, on our part, can make toward reconciliation.

#### Disarmament

The small brush fire can easily become a widespread conflagration. The point has been laboured so often that we are in danger of accepting it as a fact of life and not as something which we must avert at all cost. The sacrifice, not just of sovereignty but of historic conceptions of national