

day, in the United Nations Charter we have a 60-power peace pact. Why does the U.S.S.R. delegate think a new and more exclusive pact would do what the Charter does not do. Of the five governments, he damns three as aggressors, warmongers, imperialist cliques, capitalist exploiters, etc. But he would have us believe that a pact, a piece of paper, would change all that, restore confidence, produce co-operation and friendship. This kind of argument is almost an insult to our intelligence; but, of course, it is not meant for us. Once again, the United Nations Assembly is used merely as an instrument for political warfare, and debased for propaganda purposes.

I stress these depressing reflections, which the Soviet statement of last Thursday provokes, because none of us can escape the responsibility of assessing the attitudes and motivations of the Soviet government as realistically as possible, however grim the conclusions resulting from that assessment may be. Though our policies must be based on a sober weighing of facts - however unpalatable. But I for one am not prepared to abandon all hope of negotiations within the United Nations to save the present tension. The Three Powers have made a serious proposal that we should begin discussions here and now for the reduction of armaments. We in our delegation support this proposal. We know, however, that one determining factor must be the attitude of the U.S.S.R. and so I hope that this attitude, as it was stated by the Soviet delegate last Thursday, will be reconsidered, so that when we sit down in the Political Committee to examine this question, the Soviet delegation may be able to help us realize, rather than to laugh at, the deepest hopes of mankind.

That would involve, among other things, a readiness by the Soviet - and every other delegation - to discuss facts, rather than to pursue the tactics of propaganda. Nothing, I'm afraid, that we have heard from the Soviet delegation so far gives us much hope on this score.

For example, when Mr. Acheson reminded us of brutal violations of human rights and dignity from which thousands in Hungary and other Cominform countries have suffered in recent months. Mr. Vishinsky could do no better than to retaliate with a report of two negroes shot in Florida. If that report is accurate, a shocking crime has been committed. The important fact is, however, that 99.9% of the people of the United States will feel that way about it. Thousands will protest about it, and try to do something about it. When 10,000 innocent Hungarians are dragged from their homes and driven like animals to the horrors of a concentration camp, does anybody in Budapest dare to protest? If he so much as murmured in his sleep, he would soon join the 10,000; if, indeed, he got that far. Of course, Mr. Vishinsky says such reports are slanderous fabrications. But we are not able to believe him, because we know the facts, and facts, to use the Soviet delegate's words, are stubborn things. Similarly, when Mr. Vishinsky says that it is "common knowledge that the Soviet Union has no thought of attacking anyone", and therefore we need no armed defence against a non-existent danger, our reply is again, we are not able to believe him because the facts are against him.