

This is no time for recrimination. However it is still a time for caution. I do not suggest that one state or one group of states bears the full responsibility for lowering the standards and frustrating the achievements of the United Nations. Propaganda has inevitably been matched by counter-propaganda which has mistakenly aped the technique of the opponent.

It seems to us that the most hopeful augury for this session then is the fact that both here and in such important organs of the Assembly as the Sub-Committee on Disarmament there is evident the desire to state as straightforwardly as possible positions sincerely held rather than to establish propaganda positions or to score debating points. If we carry on in this way, there is no limit to what we can achieve in the United Nations.

What I have said is, I assure you all, said in humility. There is no cause for smugness on the part of any member or group of members. Nor is it just for us to blame all our errors on the great powers and simply demand that they change their ways. It is the great powers themselves, and particularly those at their summit who met last July in Geneva, who have set us an example and who have given us cause to talk about a new spirit and to hope that it may extend. We must all acknowledge as we do, I'm sure our great debt to those leaders who, have looked squarely at the appalling, brute facts of life and decided that man must not be allowed to extinguish himself when he could be saved by the use of human intelligence.

This, it seems to my delegation, is the challenge of the present Assembly.

The great powers have pointed the way to the relaxation of tension. It behooves the General Assembly to respond to that situation. We must match their moderation and restraint with moderation and restraint. We must seek to match their realism with constant recognition of the complexity of the problems we face, of the fact that truth is unfortunately not revealed to one of us alone, and of the infinite amount of patience which progress requires.

Disarmament

There is no doubt that the question of the reduction of armaments and the control of their use is the subject on which the achievement of peace and the dissipation of tension most depend. Here we are more hopeful than at any time in the past ten years, although by no means unaware of the enormity of the problem yet to be solved.

As a nation associated with the Big Four in the work of the Disarmament Sub-Committee, I feel that my country in a sense speaks not for itself alone, but for many other nations within and outside this organization. From the outset, we have been particularly conscious of the terrifying responsibility which rests on the great powers on whom the peace of the world primarily depends. One wrong decision for them could mean disaster not only for them but for us all. I say this in recognition of the awesome potentialities of present nuclear weapons and without any reference to the even more frightful possibilities the future may hold. We must remember too, of course, that the longer we delay in reaching agreement on disarmament, the greater will be the encouragement to nations not now in possession of nuclear weapons to begin their manufacture.