

countries of the Middle East will encourage those countries to settle their political differences.

It is through discussions such as those you are having today at this annual meeting that a better understanding of the complex issues affecting the Middle East can be reached. Our enhanced comprehension of the issues involved can only contribute to a further reduction in the legacy of fear and distrust which has so long prevented progress towards peace and which is only now beginning to fall away. I share your passionate hopes for peace and look forward to the day when the peoples of Israel and the Arab countries need no longer face the crushing burden of inordinate military expenditures and the great human cost this conflict has involved. May that day, with understanding and foresight, come soon.