

lost much of their ability to control conflict on the world stage. We now have a situation internationally where there is a virtual nuclear stalemate - a situation that is becoming an increasingly absorbing part of the relations and competition between the two great powers. This stalemate has enormous implications for world order.

In describing this situation at the Heads of Government Conference in Lusaka this summer, Prime Minister Lee of Singapore described the phenomenon as a new Roman arch made not of bricks but of nuclear missiles. And under that arch there is a considerable amount of room for other countries to manoeuvre. Politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum, and it is only natural that forces have come into play as the influence of the super-powers has waned. One has only to look at any newspaper to see the reality of the instability that characterizes the world today.

Conflict has become once again an unfortunate but increasingly accepted element in world geography. In just the past nine months we have seen Viet Nam invade Cambodia, China invade Viet Nam, fighting break out between North and South Yemen, Tanzanian troops overthrow the Amin regime in neighbouring Uganda, and hostilities continue in Southern Africa. Internal strife, complete with guns and bombs, has occurred in such countries as Nicaragua, Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan, the Central African Empire and Ethiopia. A number of other countries are in an uneasy state of anxiety because they fear the outbreak of violence. All this is happening without the direct intervention of the two super-powers. Fifteen years ago this would have been unthinkable. Both the United States and the USSR demonstrated their willingness to intervene to promote stability, as they saw it, in such countries as the Dominican Republic, Viet Nam, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. But not more.

I say all this without putting on it any value judgements. It is not my purpose today to discuss the morality of colonialism or of super-power domination of large parts of the world. I say it only as an evaluation of the present situation as it has developed in the past decade or so. We are now faced with a world where political instability seems to be a given, and there are no longer any global constraints put on conflict by dominant countries.

And of course the world economic picture is also characterized by great instability and change. The impact of OPEC in causing such sudden and enormous increases in the price of petroleum is still not completely understood. Nor is there any certainty that either supplies or prices will stabilize in the near future. One has only to look at the increase in the price of gold, or at the current level of the American