

In this connection, I must say that our delegation deploras certain statements contained in the speech by the Soviet representative in this Committee. They are, I suggest, unworthy of this debate. I refer in particular to Mr. Gromyko's implication in his speech in this Committee that the Western democracies were responsible for the Second World War. While I do not wish to dwell on the ill-fated German-Soviet pact which did so much to launch that war, I must say again that we consider these communist attempts to falsify history as out of place in discussion of the disarmament issue.

When we begin to examine the essential problems before us, we must face the fact that the world failed in its efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons at a time when the inspection necessary to guarantee such an undertaking presented considerably less difficulty than it does today. The distinguished representative of India has commented on the absence from the four-power draft resolution of reference to the elimination of nuclear weapons. The explanation, of course, is that this particular draft resolution deals with those limited objectives in disarmament which could be achieved at once or soon. Unfortunately the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, for which there are at present no adequate safeguards, cannot be regarded as immediately attainable. Nevertheless we have not abandoned as a goal the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. If the means of inspection adequate to guarantee such an undertaking can be devised, it would certainly be part of my Government's recommendation for a comprehensive disarmament agreement. But, I reiterate, it is not helpful to approach this goal by way of unsubstantiated declarations and unenforceable agreements such as a promise never to use nuclear weapons.

Our immediate responsibility now is to do whatever may be possible to decrease stockpiles of such weapons and to ensure the use of fissionable materials for peaceful purposes. We believe that a beginning could be made in this direction. At the same time, and I emphasize this point, constructive efforts must continue through the United Nations to reduce world tension and to solve dangerous problems as they arise and so to make certain that these weapons of terrible destruction are never used. At this point, although I do not for a moment suggest any political conditions for the first-stage disarmament plan which we espouse, we are again up against the inevitable link between progress on disarmament and progress on the other difficult international issues which divide the world. Disarmament in any comprehensive sense must go in step with settlement of these other grave international problems. Without any slackening of our efforts to make a beginning in disarmament we must also seize every opportunity for settlement of these other problems. One of the ways in which the United Nations has already made a great contribution to world peace has been the provision of neutral and impartial United Nations observation