

and negative aspects in terms of the international security environment, but the danger of open warfare that existed at that time has passed for now. Just while looking at that part of the world, since both our countries have an interest, it is worth noting as well that, for a variety of reasons, the confrontation between India and Pakistan has declined substantially. It could recur but again compared to the late 60s and early 70s, it has subsided.

The Middle East, much as it disturbs us and continues to worry us is, in my view, in the net a less unstable place than it was in 1970 in the midst of the war of attrition between Israel and Egypt. There is now a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and it is very difficult to see an Arab/Israeli conflict along the lines of the ones which occurred in 1967 and 1973. We're far from out of the woods, obviously. There is much concern about Lebanon, the presence of foreign forces in Lebanon, the unsolved issues of the West Bank, the future of the Palestinians and the very exposed Soviet presence in Syria. Nevertheless, compared to what one could look forward to in 1970 with the Yom Kippur War yet to come, I think we are mildly better off than we were at that time. The Iran-Iraq war, bloody as wars are in that region, is in its own perverse way a factor for some mild stability in the region. If you want to dispute that we will talk about it later.

A curious phenomenon that while the surface aspects of American/Soviet relations today are sometimes worse than they were in the early 70s, there has been a curious restraint in the way both super powers have actually gone about dealing with a real crisis, not the verbal crisis, not the prospective crisis, but the real ones. The