

required a link between the Security Conference and the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction talks. We do believe, however, that there is inevitably a link between them, whether admitted or not. I can hardly believe that we will make progress towards genuine security in Europe unless we do reduce the military confrontation. And these mutual balanced force reductions are intended to reduce the level of confrontation without reducing the security of any of the members.

Q. The treaties between the two Germanies open the way for both of them to be recognized and join the United Nations. Do you feel that's a further step toward more European co-operation, or could it just provide another forum for debate?

A. I believe that it is a very constructive development. The division of Germany at the end of the war and the possible, not only the possible conflict, but the conflicts that have occurred since the end of the war, the difficulties in moving about between the two Germanies are potential dangers to the peace of Europe. The fact that the two Germanies have now initialed a modus vivendi and will be signing it very shortly, is to my mind very substantial progress. Indeed, it is of such a character that we are now prepared to enter into discussions with the German Democratic Republic for the exchange of diplomats. We also think it paves the way for the two Germanies to get into the United Nations. It was most important that there should be an agreement on a modus vivendi to reduce the possible causes of conflict before the two Germanies do enter the United Nations, otherwise they would just be bringing their own problems and adding to those that we already have in that body.

Q. Speaking of the United Nations, have you seen much progress in its deliberations this year?

A. It's been very substantial in some fields. There is no doubt about it, that in the fields of security, peace, that the United Nations is still not the main place where discussions take place. For example, the Vietnamese negotiations are taking place outside of the United Nations. The SALT talks between the Russians and the Americans are taking place outside, the MBFR discussions are taking place outside, the European Security Conference is taking place outside the United Nations. But the United Nations is the place where many of these things can be brought in for general debate in order to get the views of countries who are not participating in these other conferences. But the more substantial achievements of the United Nations are to be found quite outside this field. They are to be found in the environment, in the questions of trade and aid. In the law of the sea, probably the most significant events in international affairs will take place under United Nations auspices in this coming year. Namely the law of the sea conference.