

on the question of general disarmament. We cannot let the present Assembly go by without achieving this goal.

This summer private consultations between the United States and the Soviet Union laid the groundwork. As we are all aware, those talks brought about agreement on a set of basic principles for the guidance of future negotiations on disarmament. This Committee has already taken a practical step toward the actual resumption of disarmament talks by unanimously endorsing resolution No. L299 which welcomed agreement on these principles and urged these two great nations to agree on a negotiating body.

There is as yet no agreement on how these basic principles should be translated into practice. I have no desire to gloss over differences. Indeed, on the important matter of verification methods, we must admit frankly that the two sides are still a long way apart. I believe such difficulties can be resolved in the course of detailed negotiations. The results which the United States and the Soviet Union were able to achieve last summer are proof that conflicting viewpoints can be brought together through careful and painstaking efforts.

The only remaining obstacle to resumed negotiations is the lack of agreement on the composition of the forum in which disarmament will actually be negotiated. To speak very frankly, I cannot see why the problem of composition should constitute a barrier to the resumption of negotiations.

The question is a simple one. All of us surely want to devise a negotiating group which will meet two objectives: first, to give the major military powers an opportunity for detailed discussions; second, to ensure that the interest of all states in disarmament is adequately reflected.