

ments, which, I believe, offers some hope for the future. That hope, however, can materialize only if these arms-control measures are followed up with imagination and energy during the Disarmament Decade. In other words, so far, I believe, we have had more success with progress in what might be called preventive rather than curative measures in dealing with the continuing arms race.

We are encouraged to believe that further progress is possible, in part because the super-powers have demonstrated, at least to some extent, their intention to enter into what has been called an era of negotiation rather than of confrontation. This development also is consistent with an increasing realization of the futility of the nuclear-arms race, risking, as it does, continuing improvement in weaponry that could pose a threat to the long-term stability of the balance of the deterrence on which the peace of the world so uneasily rests. The efforts to bring the spiralling arms race under control by regional as well as global measures also coincide with a widespread recognition of the waste of the resources involved and a desire to channel more of man's resources and capabilities into economic and social development, which more and more nations recognize as the true basis on which a stable peace can be built.

As the report of the Committee on Disarmament makes clear, the governments directly involved in arms-control negotiations have continued to assign, as this Assembly has wished them to do, the highest priority to efforts to halt the nuclear-arms race; indeed, this was the objective set by this Committee too. The final declaration of the twenty-fifth anniversary session, also, calls on all governments to move "forward from arms limitation to reduction of armaments and disarmament everywhere, particularly in the nuclear field".

During the past year we have witnessed two major steps forward in this regard. The initiation of direct negotiations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the limitation of strategic arms represents the most promising development to date in the struggle to achieve effective arms control, and provides an auspicious beginning for the Disarmament Decade. The concerns of the international community are invested in these crucial negotiations, and we all eagerly hope that they will permit the nuclear powers eventually to impose a halt on the nuclear-arms race before the point of no return has been passed. In other words, we hope that the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) will lead to a halt in an essential aspect of the current arms race, the existence of which is not disputed by the super-powers participating in those talks. Theirs, however, I suggest, is the opportunity to do something effective about this vital problem, through SALT, which is being resumed in Helsinki today. Nothing could contribute so much to the improvement of the international climate or of the prospects of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament as would the news of positive results through SALT.