

“The world has a choice. It can continue to pursue the arms race, or it can move with deliberate speed towards a more sustainable economic and political order. It cannot do both... the arms race and development are in a competitive relationship.”*

Mrs. Thorsson quotes with approval the linkage established more than 30 years ago by President Eisenhower, who said: “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in a final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, from those who are cold and are not clothed.”

Presenting her report to the U.N. in 1981, Mrs. Thorsson said, “...governments have, over the past 30 years, spent vast resources on armaments, resources which – on grounds of morality, equal human justice, enlightened self-interest – ought to have been directed to ending world hunger and building for human and material development.”

By taking a broader approach to the problem of security, the Thorsson group has defined a “dynamic triangular relationship” between disarmament, development and security. The purpose of national security is to secure the independence and sovereignty of the national state, the freedom and the means to develop economically, socially and culturally – which is precisely what we mean by development. Security is threatened by reduction in economic growth, ecological stresses and resource scarcities, and the morally unacceptable and politically hazardous polarization of wealth and poverty.

The Earth’s carrying capacity is well able to provide for the basic needs of the world’s entire population. The Brandt Report emphasized that one-half of one percent of one year’s military expenditures would pay for all the farm equipment needed to increase food production and approach self-sufficiency in food deficient, low-income countries by 1990.

* External Affairs’ Disarmament Fund financed the publication of a popular version of the Thorsson Report, *Safe and Sound* by the Canadian journalist Clyde Sanger (Deneau).