

not itself an appropriate forum for examining detailed proposals either on disarmament or on measures designed to facilitate disarmament. At the same time we believe it is of the utmost importance that such detailed studies should be carried out by a body which is representative of world opinion. We believe that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee comes closer to this requirement than any other body established for the purpose. The major military powers are, for the most part, represented on the Committee. I might add, in this connection, that the successful prosecution of the tasks of the Conference requires active participation of all of its members, particularly in relation to the key problem of nuclear disarmament. We feel strongly that this Assembly should reaffirm its confidence in the Committee's ability to pursue its task.

Mr. Chairman, this Assembly has every right to be encouraged by the agreements which have been reached within the last half year on measures which can reduce tension and facilitate the way to general disarmament. While this progress is welcome we should not let it be a cause for relaxing our efforts. It is a sobering thought at this time that as yet not a single rocket, not a bomber, not an atomic bomb, not a thermo-nuclear warhead, not even a machinegun, has been put on the scrapheap as a result of agreement to disarm.

I do not need to remind a body of this distinction of the close connection between the arms race and international political problems. States arm themselves to defend national interests which they believe are threatened by other states. When one state arms, another responds. The competition in arms building in turn intensifies political disputes. The two processes become completely intertwined. When this happens, it requires statesmanship of the highest order to reverse the trend and to disentangle the arms race from the political confrontation.

It is important that we all have a clear understanding of the nature of the détente about which so much is now spoken. The political problems have not been solved. The détente means only that the leaders of