

great powers shall be reduced and finally eliminated. At present, as we have heard, the nuclear armaments race goes on at an ever-dizzier pace. I would say, in spite of the assertions of the USSR delegation, that it takes at least two to make a race, and that in the interacting and reacting competition between what are called the super-powers, neither one can expect to be exempt from blame in view of the fears which this race excites in the world. I should like also to quote what the representative of Sweden said at our 1545th meeting, on 11 December:

"It is not possible, I find, to exclude from a speech on disarmament here in the United Nations a reference to the recent news of further development of nuclear devices for military purposes on the part of both the super-powers. Contrary to the hope of all humanity the Governments of the main powers have not been able to commence discussions even on a mutual restraint in as far as the development and deployment of nuclear missiles and anti-missiles is concerned. Both powers seem to have gone ahead instead with decisions to pour more money into the further refinement and enlargement of their capabilities in regard to strategic nuclear weapons, both in the defensive and the offensive category. This cannot but have a very unfortunate and discouraging psychological effect. Perhaps it is already under-cutting the hopes that this generation, which in the political sphere, is sensing a lessening of the risks of a war between the super-powers, should also see them entering upon a course of gradual nuclear disarmament. There can be no purpose in hiding the sombre truth that signs point in the opposite, the negative direction in regard to the nuclear armaments race between them." (PR 1545, pp 17, 18).

Can this nuclear arms race be halted? In January of this year the USA proposed through diplomatic channels, that they and the USSR should discuss the stopping by agreement of the production and development of offensive and defensive missiles. It is understood that at the time the USSR agreed in principle to hold such talks but since then the matter has rested. Must the nuclear missile arms race go on until all concerned reach agreement on a treaty on GCD? One hopes not. On the other hand, the prospects for GCD would be very much brighter if the nuclear-missile arms race could be halted by preliminary agreement between the nuclear powers.

High on any list of partial measures which could lead eventually to GCD is a treaty suspending all nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests--in other words, the comprehensive test ban. I should be less than realistic if I said that the prognosis for an early conclusion of such a treaty is good. On the one hand the representatives of the nuclear powers