

a force is a most useful instrument for insuring a negative kind of peace. But peace to be lasting must be positive.

As Israeli, French and United Kingdom forces are withdrawn in accordance with the General Assembly's cease-fire resolution, and as the United Nations Emergency Force is moved into the area, a momentum for peace is created which should not stop short of a political settlement of both the Palestine and Suez questions. A cease-fire is better than fighting; but it is precarious at best and must be used to begin work here and now on a political settlement which will provide an honourable and secure basis for the lasting peace of the area. This is not a settlement which can be imposed by the international force. It must be a settlement on which all interested parties agree. The Force is the instrument of the settlement, not its creator. An international force to hold the ring can be useful, and in the short term necessary; but it is no substitute for grappling with the more intractable political problems before the sense of urgency and danger has gone out of them, leaving the same old tinder exposed for the next explosion. The world, the United Nations, cannot afford another such explosion.

It might be asserted by some that in the present circumstances of increased international tension there is little point in expecting serious discussion of disarmament at this session of the General Assembly. While it is true that progress towards agreement on disarmament cannot be divorced from the international situation in general, nevertheless the need to make a start, however modest, towards disarmament grows steadily more urgent. The rate of scientific development, particularly in the field of nuclear and thermonuclear armaments, and in the means of delivering them, and the growing realization of the terrible consequences of the use of such weapons compel us all to continue the effort to agree at least on the beginnings of a disarmament programme.

Two weeks ago the USSR made public proposals on disarmament and on methods of negotiation. This move was made in sinister circumstances indeed. It came at a time when almost all governments in the world were condemning Soviet savagery in Hungary. The Soviet Government statement was followed within a few hours by the cynical announcement of a large scale nuclear explosion, and their proposals were also accompanied by boasts about the vast military might of the USSR. In such circumstances we must consider carefully how much credence we can put in the assertions of the same Soviet leaders of their peaceful intentions. As prudent men who have a responsibility to our several peoples we must make certain that our desire for peace does not expose those who have given us office to the same dark power of tyranny which stalks Eastern Europe.

.../