

This is the underlying intent and purpose of our joint draft resolution. The basic motives can be summed up in the language of the fourth paragraph of the preamble. It acknowledges that the co-sponsors - like the members of this Committee and indeed all the nations of the world - are "disturbed that, despite agreement on the common goal of general and complete disarmament, negotiations are not proceeding." The paragraph is clearly intended as an expression of deep anxiety about the interruption of disarmament negotiations.

Negotiating Machinery Needs Revitalizing

Because we are so deeply troubled by these developments, we believe strongly that the General Assembly must try to stop the deterioration in relations and turn the trend back to the path of negotiation. The draft resolution seeks to accomplish this by revitalizing the negotiating machinery. This thought finds expression in the fifth paragraph of the preamble, which deems it "essential that preparations should be begun immediately to facilitate the earliest possible continuation of disarmament negotiations."

The co-sponsors view their proposals as expressing a universal desire and need. Hence, in the preamble, we have laid emphasis on unanimity by referring to resolutions adopted earlier by the General Assembly and by the Disarmament Commission. These unanimous decisions and recommendations provide us with a point of departure for our current deliberations. In the debate in this Committee and in the general debate at the outset of the fifteenth session, speakers, almost without exception, have called for speedy action to deal effectively with disarmament.

In further acknowledgment of this widespread concern, we have recognized fully in the preamble that, while the main responsibility for negotiating rests on the nuclear powers, other states also have a responsibility and the deepest interest in assisting the negotiations. I have frequently expressed my conviction that the middle and small powers, indeed all the non-nuclear powers, must join together in mobilizing opinion in favour of early action on disarmament.

I have been speaking about the main considerations that prompted the co-sponsors to put forward these proposals. I now turn briefly to the proposals themselves - that is, to the operative part of the resolution.

In keeping with the general approach in the draft resolution that is to strengthen the United Nations influence on the course of disarmament negotiations, the first operative paragraph "reaffirms the continuing and ultimate responsibility of the United Nations in the field of disarmament."

The second operative paragraph deals with the heart of the matter, the resumption of serious negotiations. This paragraph calls for every effort to be made to achieve a solution of disarmament problems by means of the earliest possible continuation of negotiations.