

the arms race, especially in nuclear arms. For many years it has stressed the need, as a step towards nuclear disarmament, for the complete cessation of all nuclear-weapon testing. The Assembly will again, at this session, renew its call for a comprehensive test ban. This must not be done merely as a matter of routine but with the genuine conviction that a halt to nuclear-weapon testing is one of the most important measures that can be taken to curb the nuclear-arms race and to avert the danger of nuclear proliferation. The nuclear-weapon states must redouble their efforts to overcome the political and technical problems that have for so long stood in the way of achieving such a ban.

To be effective, a comprehensive test-ban treaty must provide adequate means for the nuclear-weapon states to assure each other and the world community that they are fully complying with its provisions. It must ensure that any testing or application of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes does not contribute to the refinement of existing nuclear-weapon arsenals or to the acquisition of nuclear-explosive capability by additional states. Agreement by some testing powers to stop their tests should not have to await the participation of all nuclear-weapon states. We believe that the two super-powers and as many other nuclear-weapon states as possible should enter into an interim agreement, open to all states and containing appropriate provisions to ensure its effectiveness. Parties to such an agreement would halt their nuclear-weapon tests, at least for a specified time. At the end of that time, the agreement could be reviewed to determine whether it should be continued or could be replaced by an agreement involving all nuclear-weapon states.

We also look to the super-powers for an early conclusion of their current strategic arms limitation negotiations. The SALT talks are of major importance in helping to further a climate of strategic stability and *détente*. However, the SALT agreements and negotiations, valuable as they have been, have not yet achieved steps of actual nuclear disarmament. Nor have they halted the momentum of the nuclear-arms race.

We are conscious of the difficulty of achieving even gradual measures of nuclear disarmament, but the need for more rapid progress is pressing. Therefore, we again urge the United States and the Soviet Union to conclude their present negotiations and to proceed, as quickly as possible, to achieve concrete steps toward reductions of nuclear weapons.

Although the great powers have not yet curbed their nuclear arsenals, most of the other nations of the world have resolutely foresworn the acquisition of nuclear weapons. They recognize that, for them, any