

I speak first, very frankly, of the Arab States themselves, without whose positive and indeed active co-operation there can, of course, be no durable settlement of the problems of the Middle East. It may be that some of the Arab countries have their difficulties with this draft resolution, some parts of which may seem to fall short of what they may believe they have a right to expect. But we earnestly hope that they will weigh the merits of the draft resolution as a whole and find in it not an impediment to evolution but a new basis for harmony, prosperity and growth in the Middle East.

But regional support by itself cannot resolve issues which, as recent events have shown, can have repercussions extending far beyond the Middle East. Complementary to the co-operation of the countries of the area, and not necessarily of secondary importance, is, therefore, the need for recognition by the major Powers, including the Soviet Union, the special recognition, of the obligations which rest upon the major Powers as a consequence of their involvement in different ways in the affairs of the Middle East. Of course every nation represented in this hall has an interest in seeing to it that the Middle East is not allowed to become a part of the world that endangers global security and peace. I now ask this question: would it not be reasonable to look to the four great Powers for at least their unanimous support of this draft resolution as a form of acknowledgement of the risks which can flow from a great Power confrontation in the Middle East or perhaps for some more tangible expression of their common interest in pursuing policies of restraint in that troubled area?

It was precisely because my Government considered that a durable Middle East settlement required the active endorsement of the major Powers that we welcomed some weeks ago the original proposal for a meeting of the great Powers at a high level to deal with Middle East matters, and we welcomed the further proposal that these high-level talks should take place within the Security Council where the responsibility under the Charter for matters affecting international peace and security properly belongs. Those early efforts had to be abandoned, but I for one believe that in the General Assembly today we have been given an equal or even better possibility of engaging great-Power support for a Middle East settlement through the joint endorsement on the part of the great Powers of whatever resolutions and action may flow from this emergency session. One might even be permitted to hope that on the basis of a recognition of joint great-Power responsibility in a limited area such as the Middle East, it might be possible to develop a wider approach to other problems requiring four-Power agreement for their effective settlement, problems such as the testing and control of nuclear weapons,