

recognition of these realities and dispelling the forces of inaction. The problems of disarmament have been with us for several decades; the shape of the new economic order has emerged more recently. But recognition of our difficulties has not necessarily brought us closer to resolving them. And for many, this failure brings the risk of discouragement, despair and cynicism. In the final analysis, that may be the greatest impediment to breaking down the barriers to effective action. We must reject the notion that it is naive to pursue disarmament in a world whose existence is threatened by the armaments of two superpowers. Likewise, we must help our people to understand that it is imperative to work towards closing the economic gap that separates the world into the very rich and the very poor.

Three years ago, Olaf Palme, who is now heading a commission of world figures who are examining disarmament issues, was speaking about the relationship between disarmament and development. He said:

"If two trends which threaten peace can transformed into one process that would enhance the possibilities of peace, why should we not do our utmost to attain the change of direction?"

I suggest to you that this is an objective most worthy of our efforts, both mine and yours.