

Peoples everywhere are made more fearful and anxious and their fear and anxiety tend to aggravate the tensions around the world.

There should be a return immediately to the path of negotiation which at the outset of this year seemed to be the course that the Great Powers would follow. Again it seems incumbent on this Assembly to press for the resumption of negotiations on as broad a front as possible, but particularly as regards the main issues which divide the U.S.S.R. and its allies, from the Western Powers. There is no other road to the relaxation of tension.

The paramount issue is disarmament. The major Powers possess the nuclear capacity for mutual destruction -- indeed, for the annihilation of all mankind. The middle and smaller Powers, if they remain silent, may become the helpless victims of a nuclear catastrophe. Quite apart from our instinct for self-preservation, we are conscious of the futility and wanton waste involved in preparations for war, at a time when mankind is faced with such massive peace-time challenges.

It cannot too often be repeated that, without a return to negotiation, we cannot hope to arrest the arms race or to begin the process of disarmament. This General Assembly has a heavy responsibility to ensure that further time will not be lost before effective negotiations are renewed.

The tragedy of the Ten-Power negotiations was that the breakdown occurred at a time when there had already been an appreciable narrowing of the gap between the Soviet and Western positions.

My conviction in this regard was made plain to Mr. Khrushchov in my letter to him of June 30th, in which I also appealed to him to authorize his representatives to return to the negotiating table. Appeals of this kind went unheeded -- indeed even the unanimous voice of the Disarmament Commission was disregarded when, at the August meeting, it called for the earliest possible continuation of disarmament negotiations. I believe it is imperative for this Assembly to reaffirm the appeal of the Disarmament Commission.