

Fourteen years after the last World War, progress towards a disarmament agreement is still plagued by the disease of mutual suspicion and international rivalry. It is an age calling forth every quality of mind and sinew. It is an age calling for steadiness and common sense. It is a time neither for dire foreboding and panic, nor for optimistic hopes. Recent months have been marked by a trend which I believe gives ground for encouragement.

The Foreign Ministers of the major powers, including the Soviet Union, held two conferences earlier this year, and while in concrete terms the results were disappointing, in psychological terms they were beneficial. The practice of negotiation was reinforced. The trend towards calm and reasoned discussion in place of threat and bluster was strengthened. The fuse of the explosive Berlin crisis was dampened.

### Personal Diplomacy

The world has just passed through a further phase. The process of personal diplomacy, in which Prime Minister Macmillan of the United Kingdom played an originating part with his visit to the Soviet Union in the spring of this year, has now begun to unfold.

With the background of international disagreement, the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union have embarked on an historic effort to replace mutual suspicion with mutual understanding. Premier Khrushchev's visit to the United States has been an epochal one. The question which has now to be answered is whether Soviet communism will take a militant and warlike form, or whether Mr. Khrushchev's professions of peaceful co-existence can be taken at their face value. Do Khrushchev's words constitute a colossal hoax, or are they evidence of mankind's hope of a continuing easing of tension?

What of the concrete results as far as they can now be assessed? The determination that the Berlin question be settled by peaceful negotiation is a welcome and significant advance.

### Disarmament

There are signs of progress on disarmament. In his address to the United Nations, Mr. Khrushchev advocated general disarmament of all states. He proposed that within four years all armaments and weapons, except those needed for internal police purposes, should be destroyed.