

We are convinced there is common ground between East and West. And the West's proposals have been designed to identify that common ground with increasing precision.

We invite the countries of the Soviet bloc to examine our proposals carefully. We are aware of the Soviet proposals, but we are firmly convinced that the USSR can do better and offer more.

It is of fundamental importance that parties to arms control agreements comply fully with the terms of those agreements. Regretably, the Soviet record of compliance has raised so many questions that the United States itself now no longer feels compelled to abide by the SALT II agreement. That is a profoundly disturbing development, and one we hoped could have been avoided. Let us hope the Soviet record improves and that President Reagan's May 27 announcement is not the final word on the issue.

All of us, East and West alike, bear a responsibility for the welfare of our planet. The Chernobyl accident afforded ample proof of how ecological disaster can transcend international boundaries.

Our sympathies go out to the people affected by this catastrophe. I trust the Soviet Union will accept our invitation to work more closely with the rest of the world in making nuclear power safer.

Mr. Chairman, I would be remiss if I did not say a few words about international terrorism.

In the late 1970s, there were some 500 terrorist incidents a year; by 1985, the figure had risen to over 800. The great majority were cases involving members of the Alliance; a good number were directed against the Alliance itself.

As we remember and regret those instances in our own countries when the bomb has replaced the ballot, we must also recognize the international dimension of terrorism.

Our own responses to terrorism, and the way these responses affect relationships within the Alliance, are as important as terrorism itself. The last thing we want is to see international terrorism succeed, where the Soviet Union has failed, in dividing us.

Let us therefore build upon the foundation of cooperation already laid, both within the Alliance and in other forums, to combat terrorism effectively.

Between East and West, much still needs to be accomplished. But a significant first major step has been taken on the road to reconciliation. We very much look forward to the next meeting between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev.