

means and measures by which actual arms reductions can be implemented without diminishing the sense of security on which this process must rest.

We will not discover confidence by accident. We must work at it, we must create it, and the process is likely to be slow and laborious.

This is why this conference is so essential. And that is why it should embark on constructive business from the very outset. Efforts must begin right now on the task of translating the notion of confidence-building into sustainable measures and policies.

It would be easy for us to use the opportunity of the next weeks to make wonderful speeches.

But we have no time — our specific tasks are too imperative to allow us to indulge that temptation.

It would be easy to present a series of careful and detailed analyses of the balance or imbalance of arms, conventional or otherwise.

But do we really need to do that? Is the presentation of conflicting data and differing interpretations of what it means — are these the purposes that have brought us together?

And above all, it would be easy for us to engage in rhetoric: in declamation, in denunciation and, in recrimination.

It is easy to make accusatory speeches — especially in times of stress and danger. It is much less easy to decide to set all that aside and to make an unemotional, workmanlike beginning on the slow and detailed task of finding ways to reverse a downward trendline in international dialogue.

Of inflamed debate and of recrimination we have all, surely, had enough.

Early on in our meeting here in Stockholm I appeal for a different approach to prevail: detailed, specific, serious and urgent.

Let us not waste time belabouring each other with the many unresolved grievances we can all list and recite without much trouble.

Of course these issues exist and of course they must be recognized and dealt with.

But are we prepared to allow them to obscure the possibilities for progress inherent in the mandate we have given ourselves for the endeavour on which we are embarking?

I hope not, and I know that my hope is shared by millions of people around the world.

We have come here to negotiate, to present and discuss propositions.

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