

only in damaging, or even destroying, the organization which was designed to serve, and does serve, and must continue to serve, the collective defensive interests of us all.

I have stressed the fact that the continental partnership of two nations and the Atlantic partnership of 15 must not prevent, but should encourage, a full sense of participation by all these nations in the decisions and action required to advance peace and welfare in the world.

And at this point I should like to say something about the prospects for action at the world level in the United Nations.

If the great majority of members of the United Nations felt that, for better or for worse, all important decisions about world affairs were going to be made by a few great powers, then the essential meaning of the Charter of the United Nations signed in 1945 would have been lost. In the end, it would be discovered that even the great powers could not discharge such a heavy responsibility.

It is possible, of course, to become concerned at times over the slow progress in achieving world security, in extending those spheres in which international agreements constitute a body of law regulating the conflict of interest among nations. Nevertheless, if we have any sense of commitment to world peace, we must move ahead step by step. I should like to give two examples of areas in which this is true.

One of the major responsibilities of all United Nations members is to find ways of controlling, limiting and finally abolishing national armaments, particularly nuclear weapons. You know how difficult it will be to find exactly the right conditions for general disarmament.

Nevertheless, I believe that there are signs that, even in the difficult field of disarmament, we are not engaged in a Utopian quest but are aiming at something which could be achieved. There are four points emerging from our experience in recent years to which we must give most careful consideration:

- (1) Major accomplishments in history have been as much the result of a series of small steps, taken one at a time, as from a sudden breakthrough to some new plateau. We may find that this will be true of progress towards disarmament.
- (2) It would also seem likely that progress will occur, for the moment, in measures designed to deal with partial or peripheral questions, rather than at the heart of confrontation between the major powers.
- (3) It becomes increasingly obvious that, in the verification of disarmament agreements, as in so many other fields, science and technology can and must be harnessed to help achieve man's objectives.