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Throughout the 1980s the United Nations studied this potential approach to solving the world's most serious problems. Some nations advocated this approach, demanding quick disarmament savings and the creation of a fund to transfer disarmament savings to the poorest nations. Other nations resisted it as naive, unrealistic and dangerous.

This attempt to link disarmament to development as a remedy for the troubles of our changing world deserves attention for two reasons. First, the political failure of the international community to recognize such a link is an important conclusion for those seeking solutions to humanity's great problems to come. Second, this political failure offers an important example of how the United Nations continues to be frustrated in its important tasks of preventing war and promoting global well-being.