

months we have been faced with a series of developments -- culminating in the approaching meetings at the "summit" -- that would, on the surface at least, appear to suggest that the Soviet Union may be prepared to adopt a more constructive attitude towards the solution of some of the problems that now divide the world.

But no prudent man throws away his winter coat at the first sign of a moderation in the weather. Whatever encouragement can be taken from recent events -- and I think they are encouraging developments -- we cannot afford to grow complacent or to relax the arduous efforts we have been making to strengthen the defences of the Americas and to build through NATO an effective system of collective security for the free world.

Indeed, it may well be that the evident determination of the Western nations to build a sound defensive structure -- not as an instrument for war but as an effective deterrent to aggression -- is precisely the reason why increasing opportunities for negotiation on outstanding issues are now presenting themselves.

It would, of course, be foolhardy to expect that these high level talks between the leaders of the four major powers will bring an easy end to all our problems. At best, they can provide only an auspicious beginning for what may be a new and more constructive era in the history of our relations. On the other hand, it would be equally unfortunate if we approached these meetings in a spirit of undue cynicism which would only stand in the way of taking advantage of any genuine advances that might be put forward.

A distinguished world statesman recently put it this way:

"Meetings at the summit can be of great value, but our ultimate goal must be friendships and fellowship at the grass roots."

And that should be the aim of all who are working towards the achievement of hemispheric solidarity: to promote this feeling of fellowship and understanding at the grass roots of America, of all the Americas.

It is altogether unlikely that we will be able to afford in the foreseeable future to abandon our policy of making more secure the strength and unity of the free world on the assumption that the Communist nations are prepared to enter whole-heartedly into the peaceful and friendly family of nations. At the same time we must be ready to seize upon every genuine opportunity to relax international tension and to resolve the differences that have held the world in the icy grip of the cold war.

I believe that opportunities for negotiation will increase as the free world becomes stronger and more united. Under the leadership of the United States and with the whole-hearted cooperation of other free countries, we are building a better basis for security