

concern for the political evolution of the Arab countries, but even the United Nations cannot dictate the pace of that development or attempt to influence the political form that it may ultimately assume. What is important, particularly in this transitional stage, is that we should recognize that the pattern of economic and political relationships has not reached a settled equilibrium in the Middle East any more than it has reached an equilibrium in the British Commonwealth or, for that matter, in Western Europe, where economic, social and political forces are creating new systems of international and, in some cases, supranational co-operation in forms whose ultimate shape none of us can foresee.

Peaceful Changes Must be Peaceful

While these processes, all natural enough, perhaps even inevitable, are working themselves out, our chief responsibility in the United Nations is to see that our thinking and that our institutions should be sufficiently flexible and realistic to accommodate themselves to the facts of change. Changes will have to come, but they must come peacefully. This much the world has a right to expect, and all our efforts, either within this Organization or in fields of policy beyond it, should be directed to this task. This is in the common interest of all of us, whether we are members of the Warsaw Pact, of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or whether we belong to that group sometimes referred to as the uncommitted nations in the cold war. The whole world has ultimately a single interest in preventing the strains and stresses arising from rapid and unequal rates of development in these areas from bringing us all into fatal collision.

I am on surer ground when I turn to the economic provisions of the resolutions before us. Just as the unequal pace of political development in the Middle East has produced stresses in the relations among the States of the area, so also has the unequal distribution of economic resources had its impact on the rate of economic and social development in various parts of the Middle East. The invitation -- that is what it is -- to the Arab States to create for themselves, with the technical assistance available through the United Nations specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations, development institutions serving the interests of the region as a whole, is an attempt to make possible the lessening of the economic disparities between one part of the area and another.

The need for a regional approach of this nature was foreshadowed in the Secretary-General's able statement on 8 August to which I have referred, and has already met with a quick and constructive response on the part of the United States Government. The proposals which President