

international relations, a beginning has been made in the conquest of space, and an end has been put to the relatively harmless weapons which man hitherto has used, whether for conquest or defence. Indeed, there is now a small minority of scientists who envisage some possibility that man's inventive genius, whether wittingly or not, may find it possible to release, by some unforeseen and appalling design and device, the limitless power of the hydrogen of the great seas, a release which some anticipate might involve cataclysmic changes in this planet, and perhaps even in other planets which share our solar system. This final catastrophe was curiously foreseen a little more than two thousand years ago by the Roman poet and philosopher, Lucretius, who toward the end of his long poem, "On the Nature of Things", after the exposition of his thesis on the atomic structure of the universe and of all that it contains, referred with gloomy foreboding to the possible dissolution of our world. He wrote as follows, about sixty or sixty-five years before Christ:

".... nor are atoms wanting which could by accident gather together out of infinity and overwhelm this sum of things in ungovernable tempest, or bring upon us through their blows some other frightful disaster; nor is the nature of space and the depth of infinity lacking into which the walls of this world might be dispersed."

The ungovernable tempest, adumbrated in Lucretius' speculations is now, we are assured, a possibility. The storm of human annihilation could be unleashed by accident or through oversight. More tragically, however, the ungovernable tempest could be let loose by governments. Never has the power of governments been so literally overwhelming, and in this nuclear age it is sometimes difficult to discern the dividing line between scientific procedure and high policy. I cite in this context the recent conference of scientists which was held in Geneva to determine whether an effective system for the detection of nuclear tests could be devised. The fact that more constructive results flowed from this conference than from many of the more recent political conclaves has led many persons to speculate on the possibility of substituting for the traditional formal attire of the diplomat, the white "lab" coat of the scientist. Whatever might be the objections to such a sartorial transformation, there can be no doubt that nuclear science has become and will probably remain a first principle, in fact, almost a postulate, in the formulation of foreign policy. Diplomacy was once considered an art. Today, in the task of the peacemaker, as never before in history, are blended both art and science and from these ingredients, there can be envisaged the formation of a new compound foreign policy, a new political fusion of forces in the international crucible.