Following is the text of a cable sent on Saturday, 3 May, by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on the death of the President of India, Zakir Husain:

"I was deeply distressed to learn of the sudden passing of President Zakir Husain. I know this must be a great loss to you personally, and also to the Government and people of India. Please accept, and convey to members of the bereaved family, and also to your colleagues in the Government, my most profound sympathy."

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TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL, U THANT, AT MEETING OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Following is the text of a statement made today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, at the fifty-first meeting of the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation:

It is a privilege to meet with this Committee again at a session in which you intend to adopt another of your major reports to the General Assembly. Your report will be available at a most opportune time since the General Assembly will, at its forthcoming session, take important decisions regarding the organization of a conference on the problems of the human environment. Although it is not intended that this should be primarily a scientific conference, your reports will provide the General Assembly with invaluable background for preliminary discussion of some of the major problems with which that conference will be concerned. This will be so not merely because of the importance of environmental radiation, but also because of the quantitative and comprehensive approach that you have consistently followed in studying the levels of one of the many agents that man is adding to his own environment and of the risks to which this gives rise. Your approach may well in fact serve as a model in attacking other related problems that require scientific assessment at the international level.

At its last session, the General Assembly asked you to complete your current work, and also to formulate plans for your future activities. Since your mandate has not been changed, I assume that you will wish to continue to review levels and effects of radiation, though not necessarily at the same rate as in the past. Despite the fact that global levels are not undergoing

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rapid and unpredictable fluctuations as they were a few years ago, there is still a need for your Committee to continue its watching brief as in the past in the field that is yours. Atmospheric tests have been carried out, though on a limited scale, in the last few years, and it may be that they will be followed by further tests in the future, whereas the necessary applications of nuclear technology for peaceful uses make a -- so far very small but slowly increasing -- contribution to the radio-active contamination of the environment. No doubt, the General Assembly will wish you to keep this situation under review and to assess it from time to time from the point of view of the possible effects it may have on man. Since the diversity of these effects seems to increase as new investigations are made and knowledge widens, it is essential that their significance and sometimes their very existence be authoritatively ascertained, lest unjustified alarm should hinder the use of promising technologies or complacency might give rise to a feeling of false security.

In planning how to discharge your primary task you will, of course, be mindful also of an unwritten obligation that you yourselves have undertaken. I am referring to your tradition of supporting your necessarily simplified statements to the General Assembly with full critical reviews of pertinent scientific information. This, I am told, does much more than merely satisfying the request of the General Assembly, since your reports are widely used by the radiation scientist as a unique and authoritative source of information. This United Nations scientific presence that one finds at the bench of the research scientist is not the least of your merits and should certainly continue. I wish you success in doing so, as this will contribute to maintain the distinctive personality which gives to your Committee a unique quality.

* *** *
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Press Release SG/SM/1107
CYP/356
7 May 1969

TEXT OF LETTER TO SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM FINLAND
ON COST OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a letter dated 5 May to the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, Max Jakobson, regarding the expenses of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

With reference to your letter dated 8 January 1969, FI 323/3(18), in which you appealed for voluntary contributions to provide the necessary financial support for the United Nations Peace-keeping Operation in Cyprus, I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Finland has decided to make a further contribution of $50,000 to help the United Nations to meet the cost of UNFICYP for the period ending 15 June 1969. The decision is subject to Parliamentary approval.

In case the stationing of UNFICYP in Cyprus would be extended for a further six months' period until the end of 1969 the Finish Government will in due time make an additional contribution of $50,000.

The decision to continue to make voluntary contributions in the same amounts as for the previous six months' periods, despite the reduction of the Force by 25 per cent, has been made in recognition of the serious financial situation facing the United Nations in regard to UNFICYP. It is the hope of the Finnish Government that other member countries would maintain their financial support of the Force.

The Government of Finland has taken this decision without prejudice to its stand on the principle of collective financial responsibility for United Nations operations of this nature.

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The voluntary contribution should in due course be offset against expenses paid by the Finnish Government in connection with the Finnish contingent to UNFICYP.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a Document of the Security Council.
Following is the text of a message from the Secretary-General, U Thant, which will be read by A.H. Abdel-Ghani, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, on Monday, 12 May, at the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) of the International Council of Scientific Unions, being held in Prague from 11 to 24 May:

I have great pleasure in once again extending to COSPAR my best wishes for the continued success of its work.

From the beginning of the space age, COSPAR has played a leading role in fostering co-operation among the international community of scientists to further scientific investigations using the tools of space research. During that period COSPAR has -- as the reports furnished to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space show -- achieved, much and will, I am confident, continue to make a unique contribution to the development of co-operative endeavours to extend man's knowledge of earth and its environment.

COSPAR has done more than set an encouraging example of effective and lasting co-operation in its own field. It has also contributed significantly to the efforts of the United Nations and its Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to promote and enlarge international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Over the years close and effective links have been established between the United Nations and COSPAR, which has provided us with an invaluable and unfailing source of specialized knowledge and expert assistance. I am most grateful for the collaboration that has been consistently and generously extended to us by your President, Professor Roy, and your distinguished (more)
Vice-Presidents, Academician Elagonravov and Dr. Porter. We have benefited greatly from their presence as observers at sessions of the Outer Space Committee of other distinguished members of COSPAR. I shall not attempt to list them all, I shall merely say that I greatly value the close relationship that has developed in space matters between the United Nations and the international scientific community represented in COSPAR. The partnership has, I believe, greatly strengthened our efforts at the intergovernmental level to ensure that the exploration and use of outer space are for the betterment of mankind and the benefit of all States, irrespective of the stage of their economic and social development. COSPAR, in the valuable paper presented by Professor Roy and through the efforts of many of its members, in particular, Dr. Sarabhai, made a great contribution to the Conference organized by the United Nations in Vienna last year to review the results of ten years of space research and assess the practical benefits that can accrue to all countries from space technology and its applications. I am confident that as space investigations increase in scope and complexity, as more and more nations participate in space research and the applications of space technology and as the international community extends its efforts to promote space cooperation, COSPAR will continue to offer us the same unstinting and fruitful collaboration.

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CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT
Not for Use Before
3:30 p.m. EDT, 9 May 1969

Press Release SG/SM/1109
DB/21
9 May 1969

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL AT OPENING SESSION
OF CONFERENCE ON SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

Following is the text of a statement by the Secretary-General, U Thant, at the opening session of the Conference* on "The Second United Nations Development Decade: A Challenge for Rich and Poor Countries", sponsored by the Institute on Man and Science, and held today at 3 p.m. at United Nations Headquarters:

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very glad to have this opportunity to welcome you all to the United Nations, and to make a few remarks at the opening session of your conference on "The Second United Nations Development Decade: A Challenge to Rich and Poor Countries", sponsored by the Institute on Man and Science and its distinguished President, my old friend Dr. Everett Clinchy.

You know only too well that we are going through a difficult and dangerous period of international relations. Mankind is divided by deep national, racial, social and ideological antagonisms. Material and intellectual resources that are desperately needed to further common interests in peace and welfare are being diverted to the pursuit of fratricidal conflicts within the family of man.

Witnessing the ominous trend of international events I cannot but recall something Adlai Stevenson said in these halls just a few years ago:

"We, the human race, are fellow travellers on a tiny spaceship, spinning through infinite space. We can wreck our ship, we can blow the human experiment into nothingness; and by every analogy of practical life, a quarrelsome ship's company and many hands on the steering gear is a good recipe for disaster."

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* For details of Conference, see Press Release SG/1729-DD/20 of 8 May.
Adlai Stevenson's metaphor of Spaceship Earth seems more appropriate with every passing year. Like it or not, we are all travelling together on a common planet. We have no rational alternative but to work together to make it an environment in which we and our children can live full and peaceful lives.

Yet -- while we waste our substance in war and in the increasingly dangerous arms race -- we are neglecting threats to our civilization which should have first priority on our attention. I have in mind such urgent problems as the advancing menace of environmental pollution, the uncontrolled explosion of world population, and the vast and growing inequality in living standards between rich and poor nations.

Surely the time has come to extend our concept of solidarity to embrace the entire human race. Surely the time has come to confront through a global partnership these common threats to the survival and welfare of all. This is no Utopian dream to be realized in some distant future. It is a matter of human survival that demands immediate action.

I do not wish to seem overdramatic, but I can only conclude from the information that is available to me as Secretary-General that the Members of the United Nations have perhaps 10 years left in which to subordinate their ancient quarrels and launch a global partnership to curb the arms race, to improve the human environment, to defuse the population explosion, and to supply the required momentum to world development efforts.

If such a global partnership is not forged within the next decade, then I very much fear that the problems I have mentioned will have reached such staggering proportions that they will be beyond our capacity to control.

It is the last of these problems -- world development -- that you have chosen as the theme of your conference today. Your choice is a timely one. We will soon reach the end of the first Development Decade -- a decade in which the Members of the United Nations pledged to "intensify efforts to mobilize and sustain support for the measures required on the part of both developed and developing countries to accelerate progress towards self-sustaining growth".

While much has been done in this first Decade of Development, I am bound to say in all honesty that the efforts of rich and poor countries alike are still inadequate when measured against our proclaimed objective -- the achievement of living standards in the less developed countries compatible with minimum human dignity.
I have read with interest the questions which have been prepared for your discussion by my good friend Professor Richard Gardner. There are three main headings on your agenda -- how to get better aid policies from the rich countries, how to get better development policies from the poor countries, and how to get a better system of multilateral co-operation. These are, in fact, the principal questions which we are asking ourselves at the United Nations as we prepare for the Second Development Decade. Your agenda lists many important questions under each of these three main issues. I should like to draw attention to a few of them that seem to me of particular importance.

The basic question under the first heading, it seems to me, is how to strengthen the faltering political will that is all too evident in the advanced countries in the field of international aid. It is tragic that, at the very moment in history when assistance efforts are beginning to yield results, public and official support in the aid-giving countries appears to be weakening.

It is not for me to diagnose all of the reasons for this disappointing state of affairs. Certainly one factor in many advanced countries is the growing preoccupation with domestic concerns. It is ironic that many people who have suddenly awakened to the costs and injustices of neglecting poverty at home, seem unable to apply the lessons of their domestic experience to the shrinking world in which they live.

How can we explain this apparent anergy? How can we help people to see that the domestic war on poverty and injustice cannot be won if the international one is neglected?

How can we channel the idealism of our young people on behalf of a war on poverty that is not merely national but global in scope? How can we reach their parents -- many of whom now seem cynical or indifferent to international assistance efforts?

We used to hear it said that the greatest obstacle to development lay in the less developed countries themselves -- in the reluctance of their governments to undertake proper policies and the unwillingness of backward peoples to adopt new ways. But now the greatest obstacle to development may be our inability to move governments and people in the rich nations.

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The truth is that now, for the first time, a number of the less developed countries are able to change and grow at a rate faster than the advanced countries are prepared to support. If you can help us find an answer to this dilemma, you will have made a great contribution to one of our central concerns at the United Nations and to one of the most fundamental problems of mankind.

We shall also be deeply interested in your advice on the second subject on your agenda -- how to get better development policies from the poor. We need to know much more than we know now about the nature of the development process.

Some years ago there was a tendency to regard the problem of development of the less developed countries as but an extension of the problem of European reconstruction. A certain amount of capital investment or technical assistance was thought likely to be sufficient.

We learned early in our development efforts that the European analogy did not work. Disappointed by past failures, policymakers and scholars have turned to a succession of different remedies -- stimulating the private sector, undertaking tax and land reform, closing the trade gap, raising agricultural productivity, developing human resources and family planning.

All of these things are important. Yet I do not think we yet have a coherent development strategy or a clear sense of development priorities in most of the less-developed countries with which we are concerned.

One thing, however, is clear: Development means more than redistributing world income. It means internalizing the wealth-creating processes within the developing countries. And this in turn means profound political, economic, social and cultural transformations within most of these countries.

In the past we have focused much attention on the economic aspects of development. Perhaps now we need to think more about political modernization and socio-cultural change -- about the measures that can be taken to increase local initiative and local responsibility for formulating and executing local development plans -- about strengthening those modernizing forces within developing countries which will work for the changes in attitudes and institutions necessary for effective development.

Here again, we will look with interest to any insights you can give us.

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I turn now to the last of the three headings on your agenda -- how to improve our institutions for multilateral co-operation.

I welcome the inclusion of this subject on your agenda. The institutions set up within and outside the United Nations for promoting economic development need not be regarded as sacrosanct. Arrangements that were adequate to channel the modest levels of activity of the past may not be adequate to cope with the expanded efforts of the future.

I have had occasion in recent years to express concern about our proliferating conference schedule, our mounting load of documentation and the complex problems of co-ordination between the United Nations, its semi-autonomous units, affiliated programmes and specialized agencies.

I note that you intend to consider these questions and also the relation between global and regional organizations. Here again we shall await your report with interest.

As we in the United Nations approach the Second Development Decade, we have taken steps to increase public understanding and support for the economic work of the United Nations. As all of you know, some eighty per cent of the manpower and budget of the United Nations system is devoted to economic work -- yet this receives less than twenty per cent of United Nations coverage in the mass media.

I hope you will consider how this situation can be corrected -- how we can stimulate broader public understanding and support for our efforts in the economic field, possibly making use of new instruments of mass communication which technology is making available.

As I look toward the second Decade of Development, I am struck by the magnitude of the changes that will be necessary in the aid policies of the rich and the development policies of the poor. Perhaps we will need to consider a series of inter-related commitments -- commitments to increased assistance from the aid-giving countries matched by commitments to more effective self-help by those receiving aid. How successfully the United Nations and other international agencies assist in the negotiation and implementation of such a set of inter-related commitments will do much to determine the fate of the second Development Decade.

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Permit me to offer one final thought. As you confront these and other problems on your agenda, there may be those who raise the familiar objection that a particular solution is not "politically feasible". Of course, we cannot ignore political considerations. But words like "political feasibility" must not be allowed to disguise what may really be failures in the hearts and minds of men in countries on both sides of the great economic divide.

We cannot accept the conclusion that the eradication of poverty is politically unfeasible -- any more than we can accept that conclusion with respect to the responses that are necessary to meet the other dangers that threaten the survival and welfare of mankind -- the arms race, the destruction of the human environment and the population explosion. On the other hand I firmly believe that what man must do to prevail, he can do.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion and a successful meeting.

* *** *
TEXT OF NOTE FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON COST OF PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Following is the text of a note dated 9 May to the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, regarding the expenses of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his aide memoire of the 14th of December, 1968 concerning the amount of the United Kingdom financial contribution to the United Nations peace-keeping force in Cyprus for the first three months of the current mandate.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is now able to confirm that the United Kingdom Government will contribute voluntarily towards the expenses of the United Nations peace-keeping force in Cyprus at the rate of £312,500 for the second three month period of the present mandate, i.e. to the 15th of June, 1969.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of his highest consideration.

* *** *
Following is the text of a message from the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the Conference of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations (IUOTO) in Sofia today, read by Janez Stanovnik, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE):

I should like to extend to the IUOTO Conference in Sofia my greetings and my best wishes for the success of the meeting. The United Nations has for a long time enjoyed the privilege of a friendly, co-operative relationship with Bulgaria, and I know that your holding the Conference in this country gives an assurance of fruitful discussions; this country has itself embarked upon a policy of a development of tourism based on its numerous natural and man-made attractions. The hospitality which Sofia is now offering to the Conference will provide an opportunity to observe directly and in a pleasant surrounding the benefits accruing from tourism.

The political bodies of the United Nations, as well as the secretariats of the different organizations of the United Nations family, pay an increasing attention to tourism as a means of promoting economic, social and cultural development, especially for the benefit of the developing countries, as well as a means of achieving a better understanding among all peoples of the world. Important discussions will take place during the forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council this summer in Geneva, and several reports have been prepared in that connexion.

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I am glad to pay tribute to the co-operation which the IUOTO extended to the United Nations Secretariat, especially in the drafting of the report concerning the International Tourism Year, 1967. I should like to recall that the designation by the General Assembly of 1967 as an International Tourist Year was decided following IUOTO's initiative. The year registered considerable success and will most likely help to focus the attention of Governments on the benefits they can reap from new efforts in this field. I understand that the IUOTO, as well as the United Nations family of organizations, are quite prepared to support the governmental efforts in this undertaking.

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Caution: Advance text
For use by a.m. newspapers on Saturday, 17 May

Press Release SG/SM/1112
ITU/127
16 May 1969

Text of message by Secretary-General, U Thant,
on World Telecommunication Day

(The following is being issued in Geneva and New York.)

Following is the text of a message sent by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on the occasion of "World Telecommunication Day", 17 May:

On the 17th of May, we celebrate for the first time "World Telecommunication Day". It is only fitting that the theme for this occasion should be the ITU, the International Telecommunication Union.

The ITU is an important member of the United Nations family of agencies. In fact, it is in a sense the oldest U.N. Specialized Agency, since it had its origin in the International Telegraph Union, founded on the 17th of May, 1865.

Since that time, the world has travelled a long way. And among the most powerful forces shaping the world have been precisely the many startling advances in the art of telecommunication: telegraphy, telephony, radio broadcasting, television, and now the communication satellite.

These advances have immense potential for good. They recall to us every day how small our world really is, and how interdependent are the lives of peoples everywhere. They increase our awareness of the most important fact in the world today: the fact that we are all members of the same human race -- that no nation and no individual can any longer live in isolation from the rest of humanity -- and that we all, whether we want it or not, share the same future.

* *** *


Following is the text of a statement made today by the Secretary-General, U Thant, on Viet-Nam:

I welcome the diplomatic initiatives regarding the Viet-Nam war taken by the N.L.F. and President Nixon. The stated desire of both sides to bring the war to an end and their willingness to take new initiatives in order to move the Paris talks forward are also to be welcomed. There will now be on the table at Paris, among others, two new sets of proposals: the ten points from the N.L.F. and President Nixon's eight points. It is clear from these proposals that there is an acknowledgment that military methods have failed to provide a solution. I can only hope that these proposals would provide a basis for meaningful discussions in order to reach a just and peaceful settlement of the very tragic war in Viet-Nam. They should also help to clarify the character of the international involvement envisaged in both proposals.

* *** *
Following is the text of a note dated 19 May to the Secretary-General, U Thant, from the Representative of the United States to the United Nations, regarding the expenses of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP):

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to inform him that the United States is prepared to make a contribution of up to $3 million toward the cost of United Nations forces in Cyprus for the period December 16, 1968 to June 15, 1969. The amount ultimately contributed by the United States against this pledge will depend on contributions of other governments toward the costs of operation and confirmation of cost estimates. If cost estimates are reduced as a result of reduction in size of force or other developments, the United States contribution could be reduced accordingly.

This pledge raises the cumulative total of United States pledges to UNFICYP to $43.1 million. Noting the reduction in total cost estimates for this program since its inception in March 1964 until December 15, 1968, contained in your report dated December 4, 1968 (E/8914), as well as the possibility of further reductions in these estimates, and taking into account the United States position that forty per cent is an appropriate share of costs of the Cyprus operation, the United States reserves its right to make such adjustments in the level of future pledges as it may deem appropriate in relation to the forty per cent principle.

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TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL, U Thant,
AT CONFERENCE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL-ORGANIZATIONS
LISTED WITH UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

New York, 27 May 1969
The CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, it is our great privilege to hear now from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam Chairman and friends: Once again, I am delighted to be able to meet with you and share some thoughts with you as in the past. I am glad that this practice has developed into an annual event.

First of all, let me express my very sincere thanks to all of you, not only for your magnificent work for the United Nations and the peoples of the United Nations, but also for your consistent understanding, co-operation and support, and your very sincere spirit of dedication and devotion to the principles of the Charter. As a matter of fact, the United Nations owes all of you a deep debt of gratitude.

I understand that the theme of your conference this year is "The United Nations at Twenty-Five: Realities and prospects". I am sure you could not have chosen a better theme. It is most timely and most urgent and very befitting the deliberations at the United Nations today. I understand that this year's theme was chosen in order to focus your attention on the forthcoming twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and to enable you to understand how the United Nations purposes may be better fulfilled and its machinery and effectiveness strengthened in the years to come.

It has also been suggested that I should, in the course of this meeting, attempt to define four or five priorities for the purpose of your subsequent discussions. Of course, it is very difficult, if not impossible, for me or for any one of us to attempt to define four or five priorities in the very limited time at our disposal. But if we agree on the criterion, if we agree on the basis of our discussions and the projection of our discussions, then I believe we shall agree, generally speaking, on the definition of priorities. To my way of thinking, the basis or the criterion for all of us to have is the survival and welfare of mankind. This should be our primary and paramount concern. As a matter of fact, I believe that the survival and welfare of mankind is the theme of the whole United Nations Charter. If we agree on this basis, then it is easier for us to agree on four or five priorities in the coming years.

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First of all, I would say that one of the priority items before us is the question of the arms race, which has been a perennial item before the United Nations since its inception. Secondly, I would say that the question of the peace-keeping machinery of the United Nations should be one of the priority items. Then I would say the question of development should engage our attention. Then the question of colonialism also should be the concern of the international community. Last but not least, the question of race relationship in these turbulent times would be most appropriate for our collective consideration.

Now, as regards the question of the arms race, as you all know, it has been one of the most important items before every session of the General Assembly, and I propose to develop some ideas on this a little later on; but I should like to deal very briefly with four other priority items now.

Take first the question of the peace-keeping machinery of the United Nations. This problem is basic to the whole operation of this international Organization. I am sure you will agree with me in this assessment. But recently, there have been some encouraging signs, particularly in the deliberations of the Committee of Thirty-three, which is still in session; and I understand that there has been some perceptible progress on basic principles of peace-keeping in that Committee. I very much hope that the Committee will be able to present a constructive, sensible and practical report to the next session of the General Assembly.

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While on this subject, I want to draw your kind attention to a very thought-provoking booklet entitled "Controlling conflicts in the 1970's", published recently by a national policy panel established by the UNAUSA, presided over by Dr. Kingman Brewster, President of Yale University. In this booklet, various aspects of international peace-keeping have been dealt with -- in my view, very comprehensively.

Now let me pass on to the next item: development. As you are aware, this question has been an obsession with the international community for many years. Now that the United Nations and its family of agencies are deeply involved in making preparations and setting up programmes for the launching of the second Development Decade, I have nothing very much to say, as there is a massive documentation on this subject at the United Nations and at the specialized agencies. For the moment I just want to reiterate what I said to you last year. At the risk of repetition, let me read one or two paragraphs of what I said to you almost exactly a year ago in this same hall.
The second Development Decade must be based on the concept of a global strategy, a strategy which recognizes that this small planet of ours, despite its divisions into north and south, into developed and developing, into rich and poor, is in fact an indivisible entity. That fact must be recognized. This global strategy must also recognize that humanity, despite its divisions on the basis of race, creed or religion, is an indivisible whole. I think it is essential for all of us to recognize that basic fact.

Secondly, we have to remember that the national interest of any country cannot remain within the boundaries of its own territory. The future of every nation depends primarily on international security, international peace and the development of international resources. In my view, that is a very important principle which all of us must bear in mind.

Thirdly, humanity has now reached the crossroads of human history. This is a time when both the developed and the developing countries have to make a choice: either to come together to plan for a prosperous future to their mutual benefit, or to lead humanity to an unplanned society and to a chaotic future. That is the choice before both the developed and the developing countries; if common sense prevails, the choice of both the developed and the developing countries will, I am sure, be to plan collectively for mutual prosperity."

That is what I said last year, and I still maintain that those should be the basic considerations in our common efforts in launching the second Development Decade.

Now, let me come to the next priority item: colonialism. As you know, colonialism has been on the way out, and it is on the way out, but still we are witnessing some distressing remnants of colonialism still rampant, particularly in Africa. On this subject, also, there is a massive documentation at the United Nations, and, if I may say so, this problem is directly connected with our basic theme, the welfare of mankind. If we agree on the criterion that our primary objective should be the survival and welfare of mankind, then we have to agree that colonialism is one of the top priority items which should receive our urgent attention.

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Then last, as I have said earlier, not the least, we have this problem of race relationship. It is tragic that this issue has developed into terrifying proportions recently in many parts of the world. It seems to me that there are potentialities of its developing into still more terrifying proportions. So, if we really mean to exert our utmost, to contribute to the best of our ability towards the welfare of mankind, then I am sure all of you will agree that this is one problem, which should receive top priority.
Now, coming back to the first point — the arms race — you will know that, in spite of repeated resolutions and decisions of the deliberative organs of the United Nations on the need to disarm, or, more realistically, on the need to reduce armaments, the arms race has been going on at a terrific speed. Now just think for a moment of the super-sophisticated means of mass destruction manufactured and deployed by both super-Powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. It is common knowledge that both the United States and the Soviet Union have now the means to eliminate each other as viable societies, because of the ICBMs, which cannot be destroyed in a first strike. Even if the United States or the Soviet Union strikes first, the ICBMs, which cannot be destroyed in the first strike, will be — or at least some of them will be — still in operation. It is common knowledge that this is the most serious problem facing mankind today.

Apart from these facts, it is also common knowledge that both the United States and the Soviet Union are in effect defenceless, as far as the population and industry are concerned. As a matter of fact, the insecurity of these two super-Powers is at present at a new high and still growing. Then there are, of course, other factors, financial and human. Just think of the tremendous sacrifices that both the United States and the Soviet Union would have to make in order to manufacture and deploy these weapons of mass destruction, at a tremendous cost in money, skilled manpower and resources. This is a most serious problem. I would classify it as the problem of the seventies.

You will recall that the General Assembly at its last session adopted a very important resolution, urging "the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to enter, at an early date, into bilateral discussions on the limitation of offensive strategic nuclear weapons delivery systems and systems of defence against ballistic missiles." A similar appeal to the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union was also contained in the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States in Geneva.

As many of you are aware, in January this year, I transmitted to the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency the text of the aforementioned resolution, as well as the declaration of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States. I also transmitted a copy of the Final Document of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States.

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In February this year, I sent a letter to the Co-Chairmen of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, transmitting, inter alia, the aforementioned resolutions.

In my message sent in March this year to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, I again drew the attention of the participants to that resolution. It was pointed out in that message that the General Assembly, by adopting that resolution, thus recognized that it was in the world's interest to encourage bilateral negotiations on this question, in order to prevent the dangers and enormous expense of a new spiral in the nuclear missile race.
I expressed my fervent hope that it would be possible "for the two great Powers to begin their talks at an early date". Then some heartening developments took place, as all of you are aware.

On 18 March 1969, in his message to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Mr. Kosygin, pointed out that solutions should be found "to the vitally important problems of cessation of manufacture of nuclear weapons, the reduction and destruction of their stockpiles, the limitation and subsequent reduction of means of delivery of strategic weapons."

Then, on 15 March 1969, in the letter of instructions which was given by the President of the United States, Mr. Nixon, to Ambassador Smith, who as you all know is the representative of the United States in the Disarmament Committee in Geneva, it was pointed out that "regarding the question of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitation of strategic arms, the United States hoped that the international political situation will evolve in a way which will permit such talks to begin in the near future."

Then, the representative of the United States in the Disarmament Committee, referring to this subject, indicated that "the passage of some time was needed for the new Administration to make the necessary preparations" for such talks, and that "the timing should be favourable in a political sense".

In his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 27 March 1969, the Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers, referring to the talks with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic armaments, stated:

"Preparations for possible talks with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic armaments are also under way. The President's consultations with our allies on this subject during our European trip found them very favourable to the idea. We hope such talks can begin within the next few months."
Then, during the news conference on 7 April 1969, the Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers, answering the question whether there is anything that stands in the way of strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union, answered that:

"... there is nothing that stands in the way and they can go forward very soon. We are in the process of preparing for them now and we expect they will begin in the late spring or early summer".

These, ladies and gentlemen, are some encouraging trends in line with the General Assembly resolution adopted last year. And with this note of guarded optimism, may I extend to all of you once again my very sincere thanks and I wish you all a very successful conference.