The question of disarmament in its present context is, perhaps, the most important issue that has ever faced civilization. Even beyond the possibility of impending destruction, the lack of a suitable system of world control forces us to devote huge proportions of human and natural resources to an unproductive arms race.

In the last few years we have seen the emergence of certain specific aspects of the arms race as political, rather than military, issues. It is in this context that the affirmative proposition today's policy for the creation of nuclear weapons development.

The issue of nuclear weapons testing originating as a part of the disarmament question has in addition become a political fact, embodying in the one hand our greatest potential peril to take a first step in laying the geopolitical groundwork for actual disarmament in the future, and on the other hand, the great danger that it might fail to reach an agreement, which would make future disarmament many times more difficult.

It goes without saying that there is a tremendous amount of pressure on the world in urging that agreement on a test ban be reached at Geneva.

Agreement would mean the first political breakthrough since the beginning of the cold war, a prerequisite to arms reduction. But failure to reach agreement would probably mean the end for some time of any chance for international order. For if we cannot reach an accord after having come so close, then how can we ever expect to solve our other problems, such as Germany, where the obstacles are so much greater.

The most immediate effect of nuclear development upon nations is through the psychological pressure of the arms race. As long as we continue to devote our mental resources to thinking of more sophisticated weaponry, but also from a fear of radioactive fallout from testing.

Consider the case of China. In the last few years we have seen the emergence of certain specific aspects of the arms race as political, rather than military, issues. It is in this context that the affirmative proposition today's policy for the creation of nuclear weapons development.

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