

DRAFT TREATY ON THE
NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

I hope it will not seem incongruous for a small, non-nuclear and only recently independent state such as the Kingdom of Lesotho to express itself on the draft nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the resolution now before the General Assembly. But the evidence of recent history is only too painfully before our eyes as we see the major powers addressing themselves partially to a question so crucial to the survival of humanity. Furthermore, the proposed treaty will affect the long term economic and social development of my country and others in similar circumstances and stages of development. These considerations compel us to express our position and attitudes vis-a-vis the treaty. In so doing we shall not repeat the different objections, apprehensions, doubts and fears which have been ably expressed by some delegations and the counter arguments by others as well as the assurances and guarantees offered by the nuclear States.

My Government, Mr. Chairman, must obviously favour any step by the international community to lessen the possibility of nuclear war and to move in the direction of general and complete disarmament. Moreover, we applaud the fact that the Soviet Union and the United States have once again demonstrated their ability to work towards a common formula. Given the realities of international life, there is reason to believe that such concurrence, which was assumed in the Charter of the United Nations, can only promote the cause of peace. We trust that this agreement between such formidable powers will augur the beginning of a new effort on the part of both to work seriously towards, not only an elimination of those various points of world friction which might give rise to the temptation to employ nuclear weapons for achieving "final solutions", but also an

early achievement . . .