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An International Anti-Defamation Campaign - a Necessary
Condition to Revive Disarmament Negotiations.

Introduction and Summary

The UN efforts toward General and Complete Disarmament (GCD) which had begun quite hopefully in the second half of the Fifties have come to a standstill at the beginning of the Sixties. Quite contrary to the declarations of Khrushchov and Kennedy in 1959 and 1961 many politicians are even believing that GCD is an illusion today and should be buried to resurge only in later generations.

The reason for this sudden backlash is not only the Vietnam war and the Near East crisis but perhaps most of all the understandable ~~but unexpectedly efficient~~ ^{the military establishment itself and of} negative reaction of influential circles in East and West which are interested in keeping up armed forces. ^{They} ~~succeeded in creating~~ ^{has been created} a widespread new attitude toward war and peace which is a kind of non-virulent militarism and might be called neomilitarism. A neomilitarist is someone who hates wars but ^{insists upon} ~~advocates~~ the maintenance of military forces as the only means for preventing them.

As a result of this attitude international relations are not only deteriorated by unsoluble conflicts of interests but perhaps even more so by fears of imaginary dangers. States on either side of the ideological barrier are anticipating warlike actions of the other side which are quite different from the real intentions of these others. The reasons for military preparations against a country X which the statesmen of another country Y can put forward may appear a grotesque nonsense in the eyes of the people in X and vice versa. Thus, world politics are haunted by a kind of bogies which should be expelled by an international campaign against national defamation.

Such an anti-defamation campaign which seems to be the necessary condition for relaxation of tensions and revival of negotiations on real disarmament could be carried out by frank and open discussions on questions like these:

Why are we afraid of each other? Why do you feel bound to waste money and manpower for no other purpose than to prevent us from doing something which we recognize to be an international crime and therefore would never do ourselves?

~~It is quite understandable that~~ ^{at} ~~The military establishment~~
~~everywhere cannot~~ ^{the} ~~help feeling that the existence~~
~~its professional existence~~ ^{as a profession} ~~is seriously threatened~~
~~by the plans of GCD, and thus~~