President Johnson deserves every accolade of a tormented humanity for his recent initiatives toward containment of the nuclear terror that hangs over the world. If the U.S.-Soviet talks on nuclear disarmament succeed, his Administration will surely be remembered above all as the turning point toward world survival, a climax to overshadow all the other magnificent blunders and accomplishments of the most paradoxical President of U.S. history.

The arms race has, for a generation, robbed an impatient species of the main fruits of technological progress. It has blown the minds of our adolescents, who see only "blah" for a future, and has stolen the bricks and mortar and know-how from the rebuilding of the cities.

**The turning point for the Russians may have been Sputnik, which symbolized their achievement of technical parity with the West in a major area of national security. Since then, they could afford to relax and began to do so while the major powers approached a more stable equilibrium of mutual nuclear deterrence.**

Many psychiatrists have pointed out that hostility, once established, is a disease hard to remedy. Certainly, to berate the anxiety and prejudice of the radical right and Red-hating movements does nothing to alleviate their deep-rooted appeal to fear. Rational argument is not necessarily better at alleviating political paranoia.

The only reliable approach to alleviating group hostility, according to the studies of social psychologists, is cooperation in reaching superordinate goals. Most of us already perceive such a goal: sheer survival, for no one wins a thermonuclear game. This may be too abstract for universal acceptance; the threat had to start speaking in Chinese to be sufficiently widely understood.

**Arms-control negotiations are a hazardous undertaking in the present climate.** They may be far worse than futile if, as may happen, the talks themselves generate new confrontations and misunderstandings. They will go on for a long time, and it is doubtful that major fundamental settlements can be reached before the nations become more accustomed to mutual confidence. The issue of what to talk about is already being exploited as a bargaining point: for our we should try to focus on irritating and dangerous issues, like "the threat for mankind from the use of chemical and biological weapons"—Kosygin—which are still peripheral to the vital strategic interests of the major powers.

This issue, above all, can also be related to another superordinate goal, the dedication of biological research to global freedom from disease.