

## The Role of Science and Technology in the Quest for a World at Peace<sup>1</sup>

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### INTRODUCTION

*The past few hundred years of human history have witnessed remarkable developments in science and engineering. Man's profound scientific understanding and his engineering facility have expanded very rapidly. At the present time, it continues to accelerate, affecting greatly almost all aspects of people's activities in all but the least developed areas. Medical diagnostics and treatments, pharmaceuticals, appliances, transportation and communications facilities are examples of the ongoing revolution that greatly affects individual lives on a daily basis. The advances in health, comfort, convenience and personal well-being are most evident.*

*Despite these inspiring accomplishments, the future is more and more threatened with a deterioration of the quality of life and the proliferation of social inequities. It is therefore imperative that societies make planning for the future a high priority consideration. Appreciation of this need is increasing, having become much more widespread in recent years as people find the various manifestations of the pressing problems part of their own life experiences. In looking toward the future, it is incumbent on us to consider our past and present circumstances in order to establish key issues, priorities and necessary action. In this way, the impact of the threats may be minimized and cultural, ethical and humane values may not only prevail but even be enhanced. Many individuals and organizations have already devoted much effort to these questions. Much still needs to be done to bring societies and governments into effective action. It is my intention here to present some impressions obtained from a number of the studies that have been already made while emphasizing the degree to which many of the current and potential problems are interconnected.*

*The objective is to identify major factors that contribute to or generate the conditions that threaten our planet. Such factors must be controlled so that their harmful effects may be minimized or reversed. Failure to do so could lead to great harm to the earth and life upon it. When we think of problem areas, we think of the environment, of human violence and warfare, of the many failings of human character, of the failings of leadership, of the interactions of economics, population and human psychology, of health the food supply, and we wonder about the extent to which many of these problems are interconnected and whether the interconnections can be sorted out so that there may be some hope of dealing with the problems effectively.*

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