

this presupposes that we will succeed in avoiding the annihilation that the destructive potential of nuclear energy has placed at the disposal of mankind. There is no doubt that science and technology have brought us to this point. In this sense perhaps science and technology are forcing us not only to a new level of rationality but also to a new level of morality—to the point where we must also accept and act on the moral truths we have for ages professed to believe.

In view of all this, I think we are about to witness what so many of today's great thinkers seem to refer to, each in his own way, as the next step in our creative evolution. Having this new awareness that I spoke of previously and realizing in what directions we are heading, we must take this next step. We are not a suicidal species, and we will prevail.

Now let me shift from this theoretical and philosophical approach to one that is more specific and is based on forces and events of the moment. Let us examine nuclear energy and its future in terms of man's future. In other words, let us attempt to add to our thinking and actions what I referred to before as those "new directions and new dimensions." Perhaps there is no better subject to use for this purpose because the energy of the nucleus of the atom can be either a destructive or constructive force on such a grand scale. It might be most interesting to look at nuclear energy in terms of some of the subjects we have discussed—peace, the basic needs of water and food, the problems of production and pollution, and such vital subjects as urban development, transportation, communication, and education.

Hardly a day goes by during which our newspapers do not remind us of the grim potential of nuclear war. Yet there is hope that we can avoid such annihilation, that the very threat of it will someday lead us to undertake a step-by-step program of arms control and disarmament. I would hope that as we carry out this escalation toward peace, as we release our resources reserved for defense, we can channel them into positive instruments of peace. In this regard, nuclear energy would be one of our greatest assets since its peaceful uses are proliferating every day.

The power that can be developed by nuclear reactors is adaptable to a number of vital peaceful uses. Foremost among these at the moment is the generation of electricity. Electricity is not only our most versatile form of energy today but our most civilizing. Almost every important advance made during the past few decades has been related