

... I think in any event the only policy open to India by history, tradition, habit and by virtue of its new independence was the policy she has pursued and it is totally immaterial what government functioned in India. Every government would have done that. But there is something more to that. All that we learnt from Mr. Gandhi in the course of our own struggle for independence, translated to the international sphere, leads to this conclusion. We really would be false to our own traditions and to our own method of achieving national independence if in the international sphere we followed a policy of military pacts and alliances. . . .

... I do not think any sensible person in India has the slightest fear of any major attack from the big countries. So far as other countries are concerned, say in Asia, eastern or western, well, it is conceivable their case is somewhat different from India's. But any kind of attack, even on a small country, as things are, would probably lead to a major war. Therefore you really have to consider it in the context of a possible major war, and no country is going to take the risk of a major war today unless somehow by accident it is forced into that. Anyhow, my point is that we have arrived at a stage now when on the one hand every one wants to put an end to the idea of a major war, because of atomic weapons which will destroy a good part of the world, and further realises that a minor war may lead to a major war. Therefore, minor wars should also be avoided. Well, if this is so, it also follows that the atmosphere and the climate of war should be avoided apart, of course, from removing the causes. Now I think that this cold war business is totally and absolutely illogical once you decide not to have war.

Canadian-Indian Relations

Discussing Canadian-Indian relations at the press conference, Mr. Nehru said in part:

... We have found that Canada has shown a greater appreciation of the reality of today in Asia and that I think is one reason why we have got on so well with Canada. Although we have differed in regard to many matters there has been this basis, coming closer to each other and understanding each other more. I would, therefore, say that in the conflicts of the world today Canada has performed a very important service in being in some ways a link between the growing countries of Asia and Europe and the Americas. . . .

... We have also in our own way tried to bring understanding and to be some kind of a bridge or link. So, because Canada and we, at any rate, try to do so, that has also brought us together in being a common factor. We have no problems between India and Canada. We are interested, all of us, in problems of the world, so the problems of the world were discussed between two friends, without any conflict. I suppose it was more a question of emphasis. Mr. St. Laurent emphasised one aspect; I emphasised another, and so we were trying to clarify, trying to understand the situation in all its aspects.

The Commonwealth

Replying to questions about the effect on the Commonwealth of the recent crisis in the Middle East, Mr. Nehru said:

... the Commonwealth suffered a severe shock undoubtedly. It survived it. So far as some of us were concerned in India, this did not lead us to think that the Commonwealth association was not good enough, or