

everywhere in the world. The existence of these bases or launching pads is not defensive but offensive. The determination of Canadians will be that the United Nations should be charged at the earliest possible moment with this serious problem.

The President has stated that the matter will be brought before the Security Council at once and, whatever the reactions of the U.S.S.R. are to the statements made by President Kennedy, I think what people all over the world want tonight and will want is a full and complete understanding of what is taking place in Cuba. What can be done? Naturally, there has been little time to give consideration to positive action that might be taken. But I suggest that if there is a desire on the part of the U.S.S.R. to have the facts, if a group of nations, perhaps the eight nations comprising the unaligned members of the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee, be given the opportunity of making an "on-site" inspection in Cuba to ascertain what the facts are, a major step forward would be taken.

This is the only suggestion I have at this moment; but it would provide an objective answer to what is going on in Cuba. As late as a week ago, the U.S.S.R. contended that its activities in Cuba were entirely of a defensive nature, and that the hundreds, if not thousands, of citizens of the U.S.S.R., mechanics, technicians and the like, were simply in Cuba for defensive purposes. As to the presence of these offensive weapons, the only sure way that the world can secure the facts would be through an independent inspection.

... Our duty, as I see it, is not to fan the flames of fear but to do our part to bring about relief from the tensions, the great tensions, of the hour.

Canada has taken a strong stand throughout the years on behalf of peace. Canada knows the meaning of war. Canadians want peace, as do all free men in all parts of the world. My prayer this evening is that those who have the responsibility of statesmanship will always have in mind the need for doing everything that can be done to assure peace.

*Next day, Mr. Diefenbaker added:*

... With further reference to the question that was dealt with last evening, there is not a great deal I can add to the statement I made at that time. As yet there have been no confrontations at sea and no counter moves elsewhere in the world, although I would not want my words to be taken as in any way minimizing the seriousness of the situation.

All shades of political opinion in this House have welcomed the decision of the United States to take the matter to the Security Council of the United Nations. A meeting of the Security Council is scheduled for this afternoon, I believe at four o'clock, having been postponed this morning to permit the Cuban Foreign Minister to be present during the deliberations.

At that meeting, the United States will call for an end to the action which the Soviet Union has taken to convert Cuba into a base for nuclear missiles and other offensive weapons which threaten the security of the Western Hemisphere. As the Soviet Union is a Permanent Member of the Security Council, there is every