

A Neighbourly Visit

THE PRIME MINISTER and Mrs. Diefenbaker received a warm welcome in Washington on their arrival at noon on June 3 for a brief visit as the personal guests of President and Mrs. Eisenhower. At the airport, they were greeted by the Secretary of State and Mrs. Herter and the Prime Minister was honoured with a 19-gun salute. Following a review of the honour guard, the Prime Minister thanked Mr. Herter for the "magnificent and touching welcome" and described the purpose of his visit in the following terms:

If I may put it simply, this is just a call on a friend and to a friendly country. In a world of discord these two nations have neither legacies of hatred nor walls of suspicion. We understand each other.

It is good that leaders in the free world should consult, for there is no substitute for the personal visit among those holding positions of responsibility in the world today, and I came here to talk things over.

The Prime Minister noted that Canada had fully discharged its responsibilities as a member of NATO and added:

We join in the view held by you that no decision by directorates or modern triumvirates around the great green tables of negotiation shall be made without consultation with all the member nations. We must maintain our unity and strengthen it, and while striving for peace must maintain our defences against the propaganda of delusive ideas and the dangers of accurate missiles.

Following the arrival ceremonies, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker were escorted to the President's guest house.

The afternoon of June 3 was devoted to an informal and frank exchange of views between Mr. Eisenhower and Mr. Diefenbaker on a variety of topics, including the failure of the summit conference, future NATO policies, disarmament and bilateral relations between Canada and the United States.

In the evening, the Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker received the chiefs of mission of the Commonwealth countries and their wives and later attended a state dinner given in their honour by the President at the White House.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker left Washington on the morning of June 4 by air for Winnipeg after release of the following joint communiqué:

The Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, and the President of the United States have consulted on a wide range of subjects of both an international and bilateral nature. The Canadian Ambassador at Washington and the Secretary to the Canadian Cabinet assisted in the discussions, together with the United States Secretary of State and the United States Ambassador at Ottawa.

The Prime Minister and the President were in agreement on measures which should be taken to maintain the security of the free world. They reaffirmed their determination to continue to work for peace with justice. Particular attention was paid to the importance of achieving, with effective international control, an end to nuclear testing and progress toward general disarmament.

The Prime Minister and the President reviewed the course of relations between their countries during recent years and noted with pleasure the extent to which the problems arising in such relations have yielded to the process of friendly and continuing consultation. They