

Because of the release of atomic and nuclear energy in a world of fear and disunity, where scientific progress has far outstripped social and moral advance, we have become conscious of a terror of universal proportions. It has become epitomized in the hydrogen bomb, the special and unique problem of our generation. This ultimate weapon has meant, in the words of President Eisenhower, that "there is no alternative to peace". Indeed it is true, there is now no alternative to peaceful co-operation. Hydrogen and hate go ill together. They are an explosive mixture. Because of the recognition of this fact in the highest places, there has of late been an easing of those tensions which could snap us all into oblivion. Real peace is not yet with us. But if we show imagination as well as wisdom, we may secure it. Now is the time for seizing and making the most of every opportunity that may lead to a better state of affairs than this poor world has known since 1914. With the stakes so high today, it is now more necessary than ever for all those charged with the responsibilities of leadership to do their utmost to ensure that good sense and moderation control their actions. In this situation it is, I think very foolish and no service to peace or security for any government or any leader anywhere to hurl threats or launch provocations against any other.

In the months ahead there will be more room, I think, for diplomatic movement and manoeuvre than there has been for many years. This will give us great opportunities, but it will also involve us in dangers and risks. It will, I am sure, underline and emphasize the realities and necessities of interdependence between nations. It may also lead to further easing of tensions. The clouds which have so thickly clustered over our heads for these many years are still there, but now there is at least a rift in them through which we can see a star which might guide us to real peace. In recent developments, which give us at least some ground for hope, though none for wishful thinking or unrealistic optimism, your Prime Minister has played a constructive role of far-reaching importance, which I feel privileged, as a Canadian, to acknowledge. His most recent trip abroad was followed with interest all over the world. I have just completed a shorter, and, of course, much less important trip, which took me to one of the places which he visited, the Soviet Union. I am glad I made that trip. It gave me an opportunity to meet and talk with leaders of one of the super-powers on whose decisions will depend to a large extent the fate of all nations and all peoples. These meetings and talks were for me of real value in trying to reach my own conclusions as to the sources and nature of Soviet policy and the bases of Soviet power.

On all sides in Russia I received fervent protestations and assurances regarding the peaceful nature of that policy and the defensive character of that power. I was also told of the fear of war, brought about by the alleged aggressive policy of others, which filled the hearts and minds of the Soviet people, who have already suffered so cruelly from war, and who, like the rest of us, would suffer even more in any future atomic conflict.

It is, I think, true that wherever one goes today, you find, among the people, deep fear and insecurity, and, with these, a passionate desire for peace. The trouble is that while we all desire peace, we do not always initiate or support policies that make for peace. Yet policies are far more important than; indeed, are prerequisites to peaceful co-existence.