

Having mentioned Mr. Dulles, it is not by way of formality but out of the depth of sincerity that I must say that we applaud the current visit of Mr. Macmillan, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, to the Soviet Union. It might appear that he has had something of a mixed reception, but for us his visit could be a most significant development, providing as it does a timely opportunity for Mr. Macmillan to make it clear to the Soviet leaders that the Western countries are genuinely interested in a search for common ground but that they do not intend to be intimidated by the belligerence which often characterizes statements coming from the U.S.S.R.

Prime Minister Macmillan has made it clear in the United Kingdom and to his NATO allies that he is not in Russia for the purpose of negotiating, but that he is there rather to exchange views and to work toward a better understanding on both sides of opposing points of view. I am sure all members of the House are confident of his ability to do that and perhaps more. He carries with him today our best wishes for the success of his visit.

That sense of well-wishing, for me anyway, has been intensified recently - indeed on February 24 - by reason of a speech made by Mr. Khrushchev to a political gathering in the Kremlin. I have studied the press reports of the speech, and that is all I have at the moment. I have studied them carefully and at least I can say this. I recognize in that speech the standard Soviet position on questions relating to Germany and Berlin. Although this speech may be discouraging - and I do not think I am running the risk of being Pollyanna-ish - I still want to see what will be the formal reply by the U.S.S.R. to the notes that were recently sent to Moscow. I am thinking of the series of notes which I identify by the date of our own note, namely February 17. I think the Western powers should be guided more by whatever the tenor of that formal response may be than by the remarks made by Mr. Khrushchev at a political gathering.

As the Western powers approach - and I say this very definitely - what could be a fateful new effort at negotiation with the Soviet Union, it is opportune to look at other fields of endeavour where we have been negotiating with the U.S.S.R. on important matters. I speak of two conferences. One of the conferences had to do with the cessation of nuclear tests; the other had to do with setting up some machinery or technique against surprise attack.

Nuclear Tests

For a moment let us look at the question of the cessation of nuclear tests. That is an objective for which the whole of mankind must pray. The Disarmament Commission,