



CANADA

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## REPLY TO MR. BULGANIN

The following is the text of a letter to Mr. Nikolai Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, U.S.S.R.; from Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker, made public last week:

"The Government of Canada has given thoughtful attention to the contents of your letter of December 13, 1957 in which you set forth your views on the causes of international tension and offer a number of proposals for the easing of the international situation and for the development of confidence between states.

"You deal at length in your letter with the activities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and you allege that measures are being taken by that organization to prepare for nuclear war and that an artificially fanned military hysteria is propagated in Western countries. It is also suggested that current NATO policies will lead to the intensification of the cold war. I do not wish to engage in extended arguments over NATO policies since the purely defensive nature of NATO has been made clear on many occasions. These charges cannot go entirely unanswered, however, and the Canadian Government wishes to emphasize that the organization has no aggressive intentions whatsoever. If it had, Canada would dissociate itself from it immediately, since such intentions would be neither in the letter nor the spirit of the North Atlantic Treaty. As your letter arrived shortly before the NATO Council meeting in which heads of government participated, I am sure that you have given

careful attention to the Declaration and Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the session. In my opinion, the Declaration and Communiqué comprise an adequate response to the various accusations which you have made against the North Atlantic Alliance.

"Perhaps it may be helpful in understanding our position if I supplement these NATO documents with an outline of the Canadian attitude towards NATO. As I said in the House of Commons on December 21 last the recent NATO meeting has made a substantial contribution to the cause of peace, not only by reaffirming the purely defensive character of the Alliance, but by leaving the door open to meaningful disarmament negotiations. I pointed out in regard to the NATO heads of government meeting that I have never seen a group of men less actuated by any other purpose than that of achieving peace. I emphasized that the NATO governments were prepared, in the realization of the awful realities which face us, to go as far as possible to bring about a climate and atmosphere which will ensure the laying of a foundation for international peace.

"You will see from this, Mr. Chairman, that the question of disarmament looms very large in our minds and that we view with deep concern the unwillingness of the U.S.S.R. to participate further in the disarmament discussions which seemed to show some promise of success in the middle of last year. We welcome your advocacy of step-by-step progress but surely the first step is for the countries