

very important step which would undoubtedly contribute towards the reduction of tensions in Europe and other parts of the world.

I confirmed by my talks in Poland and the Soviet Union that there is in those countries a desire to work for a further détente in Europe and an improvement in the atmosphere there in order to create conditions for a satisfactory settlement of the outstanding European problems. I pointed out that, as a NATO member, this was very much the Canadian view. It would not be realistic to expect such a settlement to come quickly, but increasing contacts between East and West, such as the official visits which I have just made, will certainly help. I emphasized the Canadian conviction that our friend and ally the Federal German Republic was genuinely anxious to improve its relations with the Eastern European countries and to make its contribution to the détente.

I know that members will expect me to speak particularly about my discussions on Vietnam. Let me make it quite clear that I took with me to Warsaw and Moscow no simple, magic formula to bring about an end to the war. This is an infinitely complicated situation. There IS no magic formula, and I made that very clear to the people with whom I spoke. I put forward Canadian views repeatedly in great detail, and I explained forcefully, on the basis of our very intimate knowledge of the United States and its policies and on the basis of our abiding friendship for that country, why certain over-simplified suggestions which have been put forward from time to time for ending the war were not the most realistic way of moving towards a settlement, quite apart from the view one might hold of the merits of the case. I refer, of course, to the proposal for a unilateral decision to stop the bombing of North Vietnam, unconditionally and for good, without any indication as to what the other side might do in return to start towards de-escalation of the conflict or towards negotiations.

I put forward in considerable detail to the Polish and Soviet leaders Canadian views on the possible future role of the Vietnam Commission and certain suggestions as to steps which might be taken to lead us away from a military towards a political settlement. Our views were listened to most carefully. I am sure that they will be studied attentively in Warsaw and Moscow, just as we will seriously study the positions they took, and I hope that this, in itself, will be a modest contribution towards a solution. I cannot say that I detected the prospect of any immediate change in the views of these two Communist powers whose interests are so deeply engaged in the Vietnam question. But I am convinced that they are desirous of reaching a peaceful settlement, among other reasons for the beneficial effect this will have on East-West relations in general. Thus, despite very substantial differences between us, there seems to be some identity of view as to the desire to see the conflict brought to an end.

Poland and the Soviet Union were new to me. I must say that, even after this brief visit, I think the forces which help to shape the policies of their governments are more clearly discernible. I saw the reconstruction of the historic city of Warsaw, so hideously scarred by war. I saw ancient Krakow and the horror that was Auschwitz, now silent witness to the massacre of how many millions of the Jewish people. I saw Moscow, the vibrant capital of one