

A LESSON IN NEIGHBOURLINESS

"The United States and Canada, in unity, fraternity and common dedication, have a message for all mankind," Prime Minister Diefenbaker told the annual meeting of the Governors' Conference at Glacier National Park, Montana, on June 27. "The kinship that exists between our two countries is a vast 'seamless net' of interwoven interests based on a common heritage and a common love of freedom, reinforced by the powerful impact of geography and impinging histories. It is well that this is so, for unity of purpose is an imperative necessity not only between our two nations, but among all free nations." Mr. Diefenbaker observed that the day was long past when either nation "disputed the rights of the other". "By peaceful settlement of territorial disagreements, and in many other ways," he continued, "we have shown that two nations, one the most powerful in the world and the other with a population one-tenth that of its great neighbour, can live side by side in peace and amity, and with full respect for the rights of each other." It was with the contemporary application of this lesson that the body of the address, which follows, was concerned:

"...This is of world importance today, for the essence of Communist propaganda is that the United States is aggressively minded, and is dominated by aggressive political and military elements. Canadians can do much to interpret the United States to the world. Canada is a member of the Commonwealth which spans all the continents. Canadians can give a conclusive answer, based on fact and experience, to the false interpretation of the ideals and purposes of the United States which has been most effectively propagated throughout the uncommitted world.

STERN CHALLENGES

"Our two countries, and indeed all the Western countries, face stern challenges in the 1960's. Those who have the responsibilities of leadership cannot afford to shield their minds from the questions that will have to be answered in the immediate years ahead.

"Massive tides of change are surging into the consciousness of mankind. Several areas of human endeavor will test the fibre and faith of the free world in the 1960's, including:

- (1) the relations between the Western nations and the Communist world;
- (2) the continuing and compulsive search for disarmament;
- (3) the problems associated with the world's expanding population.

"In a world of tumult and storm, Canadians stand with the Western nations in an unshakable and cherished partnership of confidence, friendship and free co-operation. Canada's stake in a peaceful future is no less than yours.

"It is axiomatic that the ultimate rational self-interest of all nations will be served by a reduction of world tension by agreement and without appeasement.

"At a time when the trigger of destruction is so sensitive, the choice between peace and war is academic. There will be no world champions at the end of a nuclear war. The avoidance of war must be a policy objective of both East and West, but it cannot be overlooked that Communist leaders in China are more and more engaged in using the frightening language of aggression and seemingly prepared to contemplate a policy involving military risks.

COLD WAR AGAIN?

"Recent Soviet histrionics have been interpreted by many to mean a return to the cold war. The platform of prediction is shaky, but some recent events may give the opposite interpretation. Last week in Bucharest, Chairman Khrushchov reiterated in explicit terms his contention, which represents the apparent antithesis of the Communist Chinese view, that war with the capitalist world is not the inevitable outcome of the East-West conflict. If that is so, the challenge from the Soviet bloc in the next decade will come more and more in the economic and political spheres, with the purpose of undermining the free world economically, and sapping its political strength.

"The Soviet leaders believe that developments in the colonial areas are working to the advantage of the Soviet Union. They expect that, as these countries become independent, they will look increasingly to the Soviet Union and to Communism for support and guidance.

"To meet the Soviet challenge demands the maintenance of strong defences while the search goes on for effective disarmament agreement. Canada considers that the centre of the defensive system of the Western nations must continue to be the NATO alliance, with NORAD being maintained on this continent as part of the responsibilities of the alliance.

"The West must resist tendencies toward disunity, whether inspired by Communist tactics or by conflicts of interest among friends and allies. The pathway to unity lies in persistent and co-ordinated consultation. It lies, too, in ensuring that the direction of Western affairs is not concentrated in the hands of a limited number of major powers.

"Canadians believe that, whatever the discouragement and frustrations may be, the Western nations must continue their quest for an agreement on disarmament, without lowering their guard until it is achieved.

"The negotiations for a treaty on nuclear tests have made progress that four or five years ago would have been unthinkable. The discontinuance of nuclear tests could be a long first step towards disarmament.