

SOVIET POLICY -- A FRESH LOOK  
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to Canada, a Soviet policy of conciliation offers a better prospect of driving wedges into the ranks of his diplomatic adversaries, of creating splits among members of NATO.

"Whatever the accurate assessment may be of Mr. Khrushchov's motives, the problem before the Western nations is to determine how to respond to and encourage these changes in the Soviet attitude and yet at the same time avoid falling into a mood of complacency or divided counsels among the nations of the Western world.

NEED FOR WESTERN UNITY

"The first requirement today is to keep striving for a high degree of Western unity. In the search for an acceptable basis for living with the Russians, the Western nations must remain true to each other, and must keep working to perfect their understanding. Earlier this month, when the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, visited Paris and London, this was the purpose he had in mind. In speaking to French and British leaders and to the NATO Council, he emphasized the Canadian view that NATO is an alliance of partners, that there is no place in NATO for different classes of membership, and that NATO's purposes cannot be fulfilled in the absence of full and candid consultation among its members large and small.

"A distinguished Soviet visitor will be in Halifax next week in the person of the First Deputy Premier, Anastas Mikoyan, who will be stopping over for part of a day en route on an official visit to Mexico.

"The process of consultation must be a constantly flowing stream. In addition to normal diplomatic exchanges between governments and in the NATO Council, it draws periodic infusions of renewed strength from exchanges of visits between heads of Governments and Foreign Ministers, and from meetings of the NATO Council at the ministerial level.

"Another important type of consultation took place one week ago at Camp David, Maryland, at the Canada-United States Ministerial Meeting on Joint Defence.

"One month from now, the regular Ministerial Meeting of the NATO Council will be held, immediately prior to the discussions scheduled for December 19 and 20 between President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Macmillan, President de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer. In this way the four Heads of Government will have the benefit of the up-to-date views of the other members of the Alliance. Furthermore, when the so-called Western Summit Meet-

ing has been concluded, a direct and immediate report on the outcome of that meeting will be made to the Foreign Ministers of NATO. The strengthening of Western unity and understanding is a major requirement.

RIGHT CLIMATE NEEDED

"It is equally important that the Western governments should not fail to maintain the climate of conciliation achieved in recent months. The Canadian Government has consistently advocated the early beginning of a series of summit meetings between the East and West, for there is no denying the value of personal diplomacy as an element in the process of fostering mutual understanding.

"What should be the course followed by Canada in promoting the general Western effort to improve relations with the Soviet world? Subject always to the essential conditions of maintaining Western unity and preventing the growth of a mood of complacency or appeasement, there are certain general considerations which may help to guide our conduct.

"It is to the advantage of the West to encourage the development of more normal societies in the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe and gradually to bring them into more normal relationships with the West. Despite the discouraging history of Western dealings with the Soviet world, the possibility exists that, in the face of modern armaments and in the light of the requirements of internal development, the Soviet leaders are truly prepared to move towards a more reasonable relationship with the West.

"There are certain specific avenues of progress which can help to increase our knowledge of the Soviet Union and Soviet knowledge of Canada and, in this way, to establish a basis for more dealings.

"The Government continues to be interested in the possibilities of increased trade with the Soviet Union. Our experience in recent negotiations has not been encouraging, but we continue to believe that trade is a stabilizing element which should be developed in the fullest measure possible.

"In general, therefore, while remaining watchful and realistic we should restrain ourselves from automatically placing the worst construction on Soviet actions. While standing united with our Allies, we should not be afraid to match gesture for gesture with the Soviet Union and to meet, on our side, any genuine move that they are willing to make on theirs, towards living together in a better atmosphere...."

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