

One such proposal has been put forward by Poland with support from the Soviet Union. It suggests a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe. In our Prime Minister's recent letter to Mr. Bulganin, he stated that the Canadian Government was studying Mr. Bulganin's comments on the Polish plan, and that Canada intended to join with its allies in looking into the implications of this type of proposal. The Prime Minister also made it clear that one factor of importance in considering such proposals would be the readiness of the participants to undertake an adequate system of inspection and control. This is only common sense. We must always be certain that such undertakings are being faithfully fulfilled.

The question of possible regional disarmament is now receiving careful study in the NATO Council. The Polish plan cannot, of course, be accepted as it stands, but it has given us something to work on. The care with which NATO countries are examining the Polish plan is as eloquent an illustration as anyone could want that NATO is more than a political vehicle devised to serve merely a military and defensive purpose.

Our attitude towards the discussion of this question is an attitude of constructive purpose. A proposal has been made and, whatever the source, we think it should be studied. Moreover we hope that out of our study will come ideas and policies which will require and which will receive equally careful examination by the other side. It is only by such cautious and thoughtful exchanges of views that progress can be made. This is just one example of the kind of preparatory work, the probing and sounding, through diplomatic channels, of which I was speaking earlier.

We hear and read a great deal these days about the advantages or disadvantages of a summit conference. I know from the many letters which I have myself received that high hopes are entertained for such a meeting.

I think that there is a prospect that some kind of a meeting at the summit is going to take place in 1958. The question therefore would be not whether, but when and where and how it should take place. The Prime Minister has made it clear, in his letter to Mr. Bulganin, that if the participating governments (and we still do not know which these will be) desire to meet in Canada, they will be welcome to do so.

But more important than when and where such a conference will be held and who will attend, is the question of how the preparations are made. The essential consideration is that the success of such a meeting must be assured in advance. A meeting that affords only sounding boards for propaganda will not only be useless but also dangerous to the degree that it deepens tensions and widens fears. In preparing the agenda, for instance, it might be wise to restrict it to questions on which there seems to be