

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 Meeting 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.

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 normal 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 with 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.