

armed forces from the territories of all states - the participants of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty; the replacement of the existing military groupings of the powers with a system of collective security in Europe and Asia.

Taking into account the positive experience of the heads of the Four Great Powers' Conference held in Geneva in the summer of 1955, a meeting of representatives of capitalist and socialist countries on a high level could have great significance. In such a case all the participants of the meeting should, of course, have in view the real situation and sincerely strive toward achieving the necessary agreement.

I should like, Mr. Prime Minister, to draw your attention to the essential importance of the attitude of all states, big and small alike, with regard to the question of preserving peace and easing international tension. The peace-loving independent foreign policy followed by any state not only answers the interest of its people but it also exerts a stabilizing influence on the situation in the area where this state is situated as well as on the international situation as a whole.

We are firmly convinced that Canada, considering her wide international ties, could contribute toward achieving agreement on these proposals of the Soviet Government.

I have to tell you openly, Mr. Prime Minister, that the statement of Dr. Sydney E. Smith, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, in the House of Commons on the 3rd of December of this year to the effect that there is in Canada "an intense desire to reduce tensions between the West and the USSR" and that "Canada's views would not be identical with some of the attitudes we have found in other countries which belong to NATO - a complete denial as soon as a proposal is put forward", did not pass unnoticed in the Soviet Union.

Canada, as a country which is one of the main suppliers of fissionable materials in the world, could play an important role in solving the atomic problem, in achieving an agreement on using atomic energy for peaceful purposes only.

The Soviet Government has always stood, and stands, for the broadest possible development of ties between our countries. I think you will agree with me that the similarity in the geographic, and climatic conditions of the Soviet Union and Canada, the abundance of natural resources in both countries, create favourable objective conditions for a wide extension of all-round ties between our two countries.

We are convinced that both parties would benefit from the development of normal trade without any artificially imposed restrictions whatsoever. This undoubtedly would contribute to establishing relations of trust and goodwill between the Soviet Union and Canada.

To the same extent we stand for the all-round development of co-operation between the USSR and Canada in the field of science and technology, culture and art, education and health, for wider sports contacts. Therefore we met with understanding the recent statement in the Canadian Parliament by Dr. Sidney E. Smith your Secretary of State for External Affairs, concerning the intention of Canada to extend ties and contacts with the Soviet Union. In particular we are prepared to receive in the Soviet Union a reciprocal visit of a Canadian trade mission at a time suitable for the Government of Canada in accordance with a wish expressed in Dr. Smith's statement.