

We had also to consider how best to demonstrate in concrete form the condemnation we had expressed of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. The representatives of the invading countries have sought to maintain that their action should have no effect on their relations with Canada and that, in effect, their aggression was nobody's business but their own. I have made it clear to them that that is far from our view, that our relations have inevitably been severely strained and that they cannot be restored, at least until the occupying forces are withdrawn from Czechoslovakia.

Much of the substance of those relations has been in exchange of visits by individuals and delegations, and in the exchange of information in various technical and scientific fields. Where these exchanges have had political content, it is clearly inopportune that they should continue at this time. Nor would it be consistent with our policy to embark on new projects for the present. Similarly, since the Canadian people's attitude toward the U.S.S.R. and its allies has been shaken by their aggression against Czechoslovakia, a number of visits and exchanges arranged privately have been postponed or cancelled on the initiative of the Canadian organizations concerned or on the advice of the Government.

This has not meant that all normal dealings with the Warsaw Pact countries have been brought to a halt. In the long run, it is in no one's interest to eliminate contact with the people of those countries. Where private organizations or individuals decide that, for various reasons, they wish to continue existing arrangements, it is not the Government's policy to put obstacles in their way. Many such arrangements, such as academic exchanges between universities or cultural events, are of long standing and could be re-established only with difficulty if they were now interrupted. The same is true of certain of the purely technical and scientific programmes of a long-term nature in which certain official agencies take part.

In a far broader sense, we must also bear in mind that the evolution of recent years toward co-operation instead of confrontation between East and West is our best hope -- and perhaps our only hope -- of eliminating violence from international relations.

I spoke at the beginning of the new dynamism in European affairs and the possibilities it seemed to open up. I have spoken further of the blow which the U.S.S.R. has dealt to international confidence, without which East-West dialogue can lead nowhere and we shall remain trapped in the blind alleys of the past. The deep sense of insecurity which Moscow has revealed by its action does not bode well for any progress toward even minor East-West understandings in Europe in the foreseeable future. We know that what we have been able to do and can do in future will be of little direct help to the Czechoslovaks. We welcome those who choose to come here in the bitter knowledge that those who stay in Czechoslovakia must find their way largely alone. Our policy must not make their task more difficult.