

In the next few weeks, when all NATO countries will be preparing for the December ministerial meeting, we shall be exploring — indeed, we have already begun to do so — with our friends general lines of approach designed to meet the situation that has developed and which has been developing for some time, in the hope that we can strengthen NATO. The usefulness and the necessity of NATO in this nuclear, interdependent period continues to be so obvious, I am sure, to anyone who fully appreciates the difficulties in the world situation.

The World Situation

Turning, in the same statement, to other issues, Mr. Martin continued:

The world situation has featured a number of important developments within the past few weeks. The changes in the top direction of the Government of the Soviet Union have naturally evoked conjectures. We have been given the assurance, both here in Ottawa and by the Government of the Soviet Union in Moscow, that these changes do not involve any change in foreign policy, nor do they mean a reversion to the Stalinization of an earlier period.

In addition, we have been faced with the critical but notable fact that the Chinese People's Republic has successfully detonated an atomic bomb. While this was anticipated and to a great extent discounted, particularly in the Western world, no one can be oblivious of the fact that it has produced a very important reaction in the continent of Asia itself. This additional factor is one which will be noted not only by NATO members but must be noted by nations all over the world. We in Canada are of the view, as we were of the view before this event took place, that in the 18-nation group meeting in Geneva which is discussing the problems of nuclear and conventional disarmament, there was an opportunity for all countries, particularly the major countries, which obviously have such influence on the state of international tension, to join in conclusions and ultimately in the discussions which have taken place.

In reply to a question as to "who invited Mainland China to become a signatory to the test-ban agreement", Mr. Martin said:

There was no invitation. Most of the nations which signed the pact urged China to join. In this House, when we announced that we had signed the pact, I expressed the view, as I express it again, that, since China had announced its intention to build up a nuclear capacity, it should join the partial nuclear test ban group before it undertook to add to the contamination of the air by nuclear detonation.

China has said that she does not propose to join the nuclear test ban arrangement. She has called upon the nuclear powers to hold a world conference for the purpose of entering into an agreement for the prohibition of the manufacture of nuclear weapons. We believe that this is one phase of disarmament that ought