



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 60/21

WESTERN POLICY RE-EXAMINED

A speech by Prime Minister Diefenbaker
on June 5, 1960, at Depauw University,
Indiana.

... I do not intend today to indulge in retrospective judgments about the failure of the summit conference in Paris. Various explanations are possible and there is no shortage of experts and commentators to argue the merits of their interpretations. On this point I would say only one thing: that what happened in connection with the summit meeting demonstrates how fragile is the state of confidence between nations, and how long and hard and stony is the pathway to peace.

It may be that in North America the longing of men and women for peace is such that we have been psychologically too ready to assume an attitude of optimism. If this is so, and if we have been jolted into a realistic assessment of the international outlook, then the breakdown of negotiations among the major powers may have done a service to mankind.

Khrushchov-Pavlov.

I believe that it is well for the free nations to be reminded of the baffling unpredictability of Soviet tactics in international affairs. Mr. Khrushchov and his comrades in the Kremlin are specialists in the application of the technique of carrot and stick, of alternating smiles and threats. They do not lack a theoretical foundation for their policies but sometimes it appears that they have adapted to their purposes, for international use, the Pavlovian theory of psychology as practised on dogs. According to this theory the way to break down a dog is to apply positive and negative stimuli, and in turn to be nice, unkind or cool, to feed it, forget it, ring bells, flash lights, so that the dog will go all to pieces in a desperate effort to make head or tail of what is going on.

No doubt the Soviet leaders would take pleasure if by the sequence and substance of their pronouncements they could induce the Western nations to lose their equilibrium. Let us resolve to deprive them of that hope.