

There is an election campaign under way in West Germany which tends to add to the confusion with respect to the situation in Berlin. Voting takes place on September 17, ten days from now. The leader of the main opposition party is the mayor of West Berlin. I suppose knowing elections as we do, we might have expected that there would be a great many statements made which might not have been made the day after the election.

I also draw attention to the flood of refugees from East Germany into West Germany. This is a very significant factor. It shows more clearly than a million words could do what the people in East Germany think of the régime in that country. Of course it has had a very damaging effect on the image of Communism which is being portrayed to other nations of the world.

Kennedy on Berlin

Let me say a word also about President Kennedy's stand on Berlin. A few weeks ago he made a speech ... in which he set out the position on which the Western world would stand. I think it was wise to do that in order that there could be no misunderstandings, no miscalculations, as are supposed to have happened in the case of both the First and Second World Wars. He went further and said that the United States was willing and anxious to enter into negotiations about this whole question, and that too was very wise. Our own Prime Minister has said the same thing and has stressed the need for negotiations. At one stage or another all parties have said that there must be negotiations in an attempt to iron out this difficult problem.

Our policy today on Berlin and Germany is that an attempt must be made to settle it around the table. There are many channels and methods for exploring with the Soviet Union possible grounds of agreement. Partly to this end the foreign ministers of the three major Western powers and of West Germany will be meeting in Washington on September 14, ... to discuss further the steps which may be taken to reach a satisfactory agreement with the Soviet Union. Similarly, consultations will continue in the North Atlantic Council -- and there have been many consultations in that Council during the last few weeks -- about peaceful solutions to this dangerous problem in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

Through these discussions with our allies and in negotiations with the Soviet Union, it is hoped that it will be possible to reach an honourable accommodation with the Soviet. Canada certainly will do everything in her power to help bring about negotiations, and will do her part to see that they are brought to a successful conclusion.