

its financial burden on national economies and all its grave dangers to peace. France and Canada are partners in the search for a disarmament agreement as members of the ten-nation committee now meeting in Geneva. I know that you are aware that no objective of policy so accurately reflects the hopes of Canadians.

While our countries are joined in friendship by history, sentiment, and international organization, the maintenance of that friendship requires constant care. Leaders of the free world dare not forget that consistent and continuing consultation at a high level on political and economic questions is necessary to dissolve misunderstandings when they occur (as they will even among friends), and to ensure the most effective co-operation and unity.

President De Gaulle:

Let it be known that the country, the entity, the people that you are, arouse the highest interest, sympathy and confidence of France. Not only no dispute over claims or ambitions, no difference of fundamentals separates us, but, on the contrary, the French feel common accord with the Canadians, both in their conception and handling of the problems of our times.

Moreover, France, a country with a thousand years behind her, is also a new country, a country finding herself again, re-shaping herself, but whose stability and reviving strength underline still further her world-wide responsibilities, illuminate her ideal — that of desiring for others the same freedom of choice that she would wish for herself — and which fortifies ever more her resolve to form a vital part of what all the free peoples represent.

But what is our objective? In truth, it is peace, even though we realize that, to achieve it, we must travel a long and difficult road. In this regard my country is satisfied by the approaching meeting of the heads of state who are commonly called the Big Four. France believes that there should first be introduced among these four states — and thereby between the two camps of which they are protagonists — an easing of tensions. That implies the avoidance at present of any debating stalemate, *a fortiori* any threat in connection, for instance, with the problems of the German people. What is also involved is at least a beginning to nuclear disarmament, starting with missiles and aircraft, which are the atomic carriers, and over which mutual control is still practicable. Finally, there must be organized a basis of co-operation to transcend political rivalries in the development of needy peoples.

At all events, France believes that the future of peace — and on this hinges survival — depends essentially upon the whole of Europe and upon America, which cradled modern civilisation and are its main fountain-springs. France believes that the existence of opposing systems — presuming that the course of events does not narrow the gap — should not prevent peaceful co-existence, failing which nothing could, in the long run, save mankind. France hopes that, in going to the summit, she will have the direct support of vigorous Canada, so worthy and able, and which she holds so close to her heart.