

to put forward proposals in public. However, I assert and affirm that this is no time for anything other than positive policies. We should not, in the days and months ahead - and they may be critical ones - refuse to consider any proposal that is put forward by any country in the West, or any proposals that may be put forward by the Soviet Union.

Among the types of proposals which could be considered - and I am not going to give a long list; I am going to give a partial list - are those which envisage some form of mutual limitation on nuclear weapons, and by that I mean a mutual limitation under supervision. There also might be considered agreed arrangements for gradual and mutual armed force reductions and comprehensive security guarantees for the countries of both Eastern and Western Europe. This is not to say, of course, when I give this partial catalogue, that Canada has taken a firm position or a fixed position on any specific measure as yet. They could be considered as general objectives. I would hope that these and others would be considered at a ministerial meeting of some NATO powers or the occupying NATO powers to be held about the middle of March. I repeat, and I say it seriously, that we should not have a negative approach, but at the same time we should have clear objectives in respect of a settlement of these topics to which I have referred. Every proposal, however, must be considered in the light of certain aims and objectives which are basic to Western interests. Among these I mention again the freedom of the two and a half million people in Berlin. We cannot compromise their situation. We must look toward attaining, with safeguards, and with some advances in terms of European security, the restoration of a free Germany in a free and untrammelled Europe. No proposal, Mr. Speaker, should be accepted which would have the effect of changing the balance of military security to the disadvantage of the West.

At this part of my contribution to this debate I must say quite frankly that it is distressing that John Foster Dulles, the United States Secretary of State, should have been stricken by illness. All members of the House will join with me in wishing for him a speedy and complete recovery. I salute him as a man who has devoted his public career, in that high office of Secretary of State of the United States, to the pursuit of an honourable agreement between the East and West. I express my own admiration of his qualities of fortitude and courage. I can report to the House, Mr. Speaker, that his recent visit to London, Paris and Bonn, just before he was taken to hospital, helped materially in co-ordinating the Western views, in identifying basic Western interests to be protected, and in making clear the objectives to be pursued in any negotiations with the Soviet Union.