

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 56/12 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION
AFFECTING EAST-WEST RELATIONS

Excerpts from a statement on April 12 to
the Standing Committee of External Affairs
by the Secretary of State for External
Affairs

Following reference to the Geneva Conference last
summer, Mr. Pearson said:

"The logical conclusion, as I draw it, from these two conferences is that Soviet policy is now to be pursued at least for the time being by a variety of methods short of global war. From that possibly we can take comfort. ... But, I think this is the significant fact, Soviet objectives remain the same even though Soviet methods may have changed to what they probably consider, from their point of view, to be a more positive and fruitful approach. As I see it, the main objectives of Soviet policy remain so far as policy in the West is concerned - I am not talking about Asia - are the dissolution of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the withdrawal of the United States from Western Europe. The Soviet leaders have made it pretty clear that they will not tolerate the unification of Germany within NATO. For the time being at least, Soviet terms for the unification of Germany are, to use the words Mr. Molotov used whether by calculation or by accident at Geneva: 'The preservation of the social and economic structure of a Communist Eastern Germany within a unified Germany.'

"It may be, however, that the Soviet leaders are genuinely anxious to reach some agreement on disarmament in order to free labour and resources for non-military purposes. ... That, so far as it goes, is an encouraging factor. But it also is true that the Soviet remains very suspicious of many of our Western ideas on disarmament.