

The fresh look which Mr. Khrushchov has given to Soviet foreign policy arises primarily from a deep-seated Soviet fear of nuclear war and its consequences. It might be influenced by possible Soviet concern about the long-range implications of the policies of Communist China. It accords better with the image of benevolence and reasonableness which the Soviet Union hopes to project in the under-developed world. Of more direct concern to Canada, a Soviet policy of conciliation offers a better prospect of driving wedges into the ranks of his diplomatic adversaries, of creating splits among members of NATO.

Whatever the accurate assessment may be of Mr. Khrushchov's motives, the problem before the Western nations is to determine how to respond to and encourage these changes in the Soviet attitude and yet at the same time avoid falling into a mood of complacency or divided counsels among the nations of the Western world.

The first requirement today is to keep striving for a high degree of Western unity. In the search for an acceptable basis for living with the Russians, the Western nations must remain true to each other, and must keep working to perfect their understanding. Earlier this month, when the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, visited Paris and London, this was the purpose he had in mind. In speaking to French and British leaders and to the NATO Council, he emphasized the Canadian view that NATO is an alliance of partners, that there is no place in NATO for different classes of membership, and that NATO's purposes cannot be fulfilled in the absence of full and candid consultation among its members large and small.

A distinguished Soviet visitor will be in Halifax next week in the person of the First Deputy Premier, Anastas Mikoyan, who will be stopping over for part of a day en route on an official visit to Mexico.

The process of consultation must be a constantly flowing stream. In addition to normal diplomatic exchanges between governments and in the NATO Council, it draws periodic infusions of renewed strength from exchanges of visits between Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers, and from meetings of the NATO Council at the ministerial level.

Another important type of consultation took place one week ago at Camp David, Maryland, at the Canada-United States Ministerial Meeting on Joint Defence.

One month from now, the regular Ministerial Meeting of the NATO Council will be held, immediately prior to the discussions scheduled for December 19 and 20 between President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Macmillan, President de Gaulle and