



CANADA

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 60/41 FOUNDATIONS OF CANADIAN EXTERNAL POLICY

An address by Prime Minister Diefenbaker to the Canadian Club of Ottawa on November 24, 1960.

... I am going to speak generally of Canada's external policies, but with specific reference to three essential foundations of those policies - the Commonwealth, the United Nations and NATO.

Of the Commonwealth I will say nothing more than this:- that stronger than ever before is the relationship between the members of the Commonwealth. In the month of March, or possibly April, 1961, there will be held a further meeting of prime ministers of the Commonwealth. Matters that you and I know will come before that conference will either strengthen or weaken the position of the Commonwealth in the years ahead. I believe, however, in that spirit that has characterized the Commonwealth in the past as it meets changing and changed conditions, without any formal agreements, and without any compulsion. The Commonwealth brings together more than 550 million people united in a common dedication to those principles of freedom which today are so necessary to maintain and which give to the Commonwealth that unity in all parts of the world that provides an answer to the Communists wherever they may be.

All of you have been following the present session of the United Nations General Assembly. It opened at a time when all that remained of the "summit" was a rubble of disappointed hopes. Disarmament negotiations had been brought to a stop. Berlin was again a source of discord and danger. Peace was threatened in the Congo and in Laos. Nothing that was occurring at that time gave any hope of reducing, much less removing, the possibility of a miscalculation by one side or another which would result in world catastrophe.

Peace Still Precarious

What of the intervening months? What are the hopes of mankind today? There has been no significant or immediate change for the better. Peace continues to be dependent on the precarious premises and unpredictable personalities in Moscow and Peking. The best that may be