

Canadian Attitude

The Canadian Government had for some time been convinced of the need for more active negotiation between East and West on dangerous problems, and had urged a flexible approach. Canada also attached importance to careful preparation for high-level negotiation, in order to identify and delimit the problems, to clarify the areas of agreement and disagreement, and to have some reasonable assurance of success. The Canadian Government favoured not one such meeting but a series.

It was recognized by the Government in May that the collapse of the summit meeting was not only a Soviet reaction to Western policies but was to be accounted for in large part by circumstances inside the Soviet bloc. For the same reason, it seemed likely, by the end of the year, that the Soviet Government would make overtures to negotiate major differences between East and West. The Canadian Government's position was that the West, while leaving no doubt that it would defend its vital interests, should at the same time take advantage of the situation by dealing realistically, yet imaginatively and flexibly, with whatever advances the Soviet Union might make.