



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

Excerpt from an Address by Prime Minister
John G. Diefenbaker to The Canadian Press,
Toronto, April 16, 1958

I want now to refer, for a few minutes, to the international situation.

We can put too much importance on intercontinental missiles without realizing at the same time the impact of those intercontinental missives which are today being received from the U.S.S.R. by leaders of the free world.

We have not discharged our responsibilities. We have allowed the U.S.S.R. in recent months and years to achieve an authority over the hearts and souls of men by our failure to meet in an imaginative way the challenge of those "missives" sent by the U.S.S.R. And I know we all say that it is hypocritical for Mr. Khrushchev to quote the opinion of more than 9,200 scientists of 44 nations, to make his appeal to the conscience of humanity, emphasizing the hazards of "fall-out" as a result of the testing of nuclear weapons. But it is no answer to those suggestions to label everything that is advanced by the U.S.S.R. as simple propaganda.

The free world must, while maintaining its strength and unity, meet with imaginative statements this challenge. My hope is that the nations of the free world will announce in the immediate future their desire and willingness to discontinue nuclear tests, except for the application of known explosive techniques to peaceful purposes, provided that there is suitable international supervision.

Dr. Willard Libby, one of the Commissioners of the U.S.A.E.C., stated before a Congressional Committee last month that there were a number of possible peaceful uses of nuclear explosions which should not be overlooked. He cited in particular the possibility, based upon a subterranean explosion staged by the U.S., that nuclear explosions could be used to restore the