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REPORT TO THE NATION

On May 19, Prime Minister Diefenbaker, in a radio speech, stated the position of the Government of Canada on two of the most important issues of international debate:

"I speak to you tonight at a time when the hopes for a better and more peaceful world have been rudely disturbed by happenings beyond our borders, and beyond our control.

"Why did Khrushchov destroy the hopes of mankind in the summit meeting? Was it, as he would have the world believe, because of the American aircraft over Russia? Yesterday, in the course of his press conference, he gave himself away when he revealed that this incident was only an excuse, for he said he intended to speak to the President about such flights when in the United States last September. As he said: 'I almost opened my mouth to speak of U.S. intelligence flights over Russia but the atmosphere was so convivial that I thought: Why raise this matter with this friend then?'

"He has stated on another occasion that he overruled the wish of the military authorities to bring down an intruding plane.

"This removes any suggestion that the attitude he took at the conference was dictated because of the recent event. It would seem to indicate that he had decided some time ago to wreck the conference because he had found out that the United States, France and Britain would not meet his wishes if doing so meant sacrificing the entire population of West Berlin. He simply did not want the conference

to take place, even though he had asked for it for more than two years.

"It would appear that he has been having difficulties with the military authorities at home and was also being opposed by the Communist Chinese in his expressed wish to follow a more peaceful policy. It is worth noting that Peking's leaders have been uttering some very frightening statements recently. Their Defence Minister stated that 'hundreds of millions strong can overwhelm the enemy in the flame of an all-out people's war'.

"There has been concern expressed about the way the United States has handled the aircraft matter. This is not the time to enter into criticisms or recriminations of our friends, but I think it is important that we of the free world should recall the Soviet provocations of the past; its breaking of pledges; its organized espionage which Canadians have such good reason to recall; its armed intervention in the affairs of other countries, and its continuing enslavement of entire nationalities.

"These facts speak for themselves. The frightening and sinister cold war, which may now be resumed, has been the traditional Soviet instrument of internal-political control of Russia and its enslaved populations. The free world has long suffered, and the Soviet has rejected, by excuses and delays, an effective system of international armament inspection which they must know is the only possible basis of world disarmament.

(Over)