

As its stands, the Western position is realistic, negotiable, and offers no threat to the security of any state. It looks forward to an ultimate goal of general disarmament, applicable to all countries with a significant military capability, and effectively controlled through an international disarmament organization. It envisages too the establishment in stages of international machinery for keeping the peace and for enforcing a rule of law. Appropriate links with the United Nations are contemplated and in the view of the Canadian Government this is of great importance.

It would be neither profitable nor desirable to enter upon the ten-power negotiations, which will be exclusively concerned with disarmament, in the belief that no significant progress can be made until political issues have been resolved. On the contrary, we believe that agreement on disarmament measures can and will help to improve the chances for political agreements. Accordingly, it is our intention to pursue vigorously the objectives of disarmament as such, and to work assiduously for the early implementation of agreements in as broad an area as may be possible.

I believe that it is incumbent on all concerned to view the forthcoming negotiations with hope and optimism. For years the people of the world have been yearning for peace with security and for freedom from anxiety about war. During the past decade and a half, we have seen an unprecedented preparation for defence, in a period of great scientific advance, but there has been no increase in security and no decrease in anxiety. If anything, international insecurity has grown and with it an appalling risk of war through mistake or miscalculation. Moreover, nations everywhere have had to bear the crushing burdens of defence with no prospect of relief in sight and with a depressing effect on many economies.

The time has come to concentrate on steps to be taken towards meaningful disarmament. The political atmosphere of today is as favourable to such action as at any time since the Second World War. Canada is participating in the disarmament negotiations believing there is hope for success. We are encouraged by the degree of harmony within the Western team and by their serious approach to the subject. They have a determination to achieve results and we hope that this will find response from the Soviet side. We will do all we can to assist in this most important endeavour.

### **Commonwealth Leaders Meet**

*On March 21, Prime Minister Diefenbaker replied in the following words to an inquiry by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Pearson, about the date of the May meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers:*

On Friday last the Leader of the Opposition asked whether there was anything to report about the date of the forthcoming Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, which date has appeared in the press, or the items which might be discussed at that Conference, reports of which have also appeared in the press.