

are out of its control, and in reality a blind chance that can push the world into the abyss of a new war, then, irrespective of the intentions of either side, it is necessary to reckon with the grave danger of war. That is why we say and will continue to say that to take a light approach to actions from which there could be only one step to a fearful tragedy, is to take upon oneself a heavy responsibility before one's people, before the world, before history. We state with profound regret that the Government of Canada has not refrained from sharing with the Government of the USA to a certain degree the responsibility for such flights, as may be seen in the recent signing of an agreement between the USA and Canada on the unification of the command of the air forces of both countries.

The essence of the danger which has arisen for the cause of peace lies by no means in the absence of inspection in the Arctic, which is mentioned in your letter, but exclusively in the above-mentioned flights of American bombers to the borders of the USSR. Only one thing is required to eliminate this danger - the cessation of such action on the part of the USA. But it is this very thing that is evidently not desired by the USA Government which tries to substitute the question of establishing inspection in the Arctic for the question of the immediate cessation of flights by its bombers. The proposal of the Government of the USA is by no means aimed at removing the tense situation in the Arctic region, despite all the fuss about it made by those who advocate balancing "on the brink of war" and who advocate military preparations by NATO; it is primarily concerned with obtaining military-strategic advantages for the USA to the detriment of the security of the Soviet Union.

Judge for yourself, the Government of the USA, in putting forward a proposal about establishing inspection in the Arctic, does not even promise to stop completely the flights of bombers with atomic and hydrogen bombs towards the Soviet Union. Moreover this proposal relates to only one sector of the borders of the Soviet Union, and other areas, from which an attack can be made on the USSR, and where American air bases are located, are ignored.

Nobody will deny that there are many American military bases in the countries of Europe, Africa and other areas, which are aimed against the USSR and other peace-loving states, and which can also be used for an attack against our country. Could the Soviet Union under such conditions take any steps which would disarm it in the face of the danger of an attack, and which would reduce its capability to strike back in self-defence, and only in self-defence? To expect this from us means to expect too much.

In connection with what you say in favour of applying aerial inspection to prevent a sudden attack, I would like to remind you that the Soviet Government, meeting the wishes of the Western powers, already proposed last year the establishment of zones of aerial inspection in Central Europe, as well as in the Far East, and in the corresponding part of the USA. This Soviet proposal which takes equally into account the security interests of all parties concerned remains in force, but such a decision to all appearances does not suit the Government of the USA. Since this proposal has not met with a positive attitude on the part of the USA, we cannot regard the American proposal on aerial