

Similarly, the talks which the President has recently concluded with the heads of government in major capitals of Europe cannot but have a beneficial effect on the world situation. Before his departure, the President included amongst the purposes of his trip the support of Western unity; the search for progress on the problems of disarmament and German reunification; the strengthening of help to under-developed countries and the reaffirmation of the dedication of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty.

In addition to his talks with heads of government, the President found time to attend briefly a meeting of the Permanent Council of NATO. He included in his comments on that occasion an assertion which I strongly endorse, to the effect that no member nation need take a second place in the Organization, and that NATO is animated by a spirit of equality as well as by a determination to work to preserve those ideals which we all cherish.

Canada's stand in this regard, which I made known in Paris and Bonn last December, is that Canada will not consent to any arrangement whereby any triumvirate of nations shall determine the policies of NATO.

The President has made it clear that in his talks with Khrushchev he will not regard himself as a spokesman for the West, and that he will not be negotiating. His stated purpose is to explore Mr. Khrushchev's thinking and to find out for himself whether Mr. Khrushchev has any proposals which could reduce tensions and lead to beneficial future developments.

The exchange of visits between President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev may not settle the question of a summit meeting. These are essentially bilateral talks which I hope will create a situation more conducive to negotiation. The Canadian Government has not changed its view that progress towards settlement of major international problems might be facilitated by a summit conference.

While long range processes are going forward, certain current developments are encouraging. The fact that both the United States and the U.S.S.R. have undertaken to continue for the time being their suspension of nuclear tests is of importance, and gives some confidence that progress can be made toward an international agreement with adequate safeguards.

#### Group for Disarmament Discussions

Some progress is being made on the long-standing problem of disarmament. As was announced on September 7, the major powers have been able to agree on the constitution of a new group to conduct disarmament discussions. This group will consist of ten countries. The five Western nations will be the United States, United Kingdom, France, Italy and Canada. Countries associated with the Soviet bloc will be the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Roumania and Bulgaria.