

What is clear is that this Communist action has added a new and disturbing element to a situation which already holds dangerous potentialities. It is a matter of serious concern when, by unilateral, illegal, and provocative action, tension is augmented so greatly. The men in the Kremlin should now realize that the crisis they have manufactured has had the effect, not of causing hesitation and disunity among the nations in the Western alliance, but of crystallizing Western strength and Western purpose. I express the hope, and I do so in all seriousness, that Mr. Khrushchov and the Kremlin will not mistake the determination of the West for desperation and will not mistake our defensive preparations for aggressive intent. We do not know desperation nor are our intentions aggressive, but like any prudent householder we are adjusting our insurance to the risks that we must face. I hope that we will be able to engage in positive and constructive negotiations. I hope that the countries of the free world and their peoples will not be overcome by uncertainty, by alarm - yes, by panic. By united resolutions we have to make clear to Mr. Khrushchov the free choice of all members of the NATO alliance. We will not permit him to succeed by any effort to undermine the basic unity of purpose of the free world, or divert us from our determination to preserve the freedom of West Berlin and Western rights of access to that city.

We ask ourselves this question. Why has Mr. Khrushchov's puppet government in East Germany decided to precipitate a crisis at this time by closing the border in derogation of the four-power agreement? This action, I said a moment ago seems to be one of provocation coupled with the desperation born of the failure of East Germany to stem the exodus of East Germans. What are we going to do? What attitude will Canada take? Whatever that stand may be, I want it to be representative of the unity of this nation for the welfare of freedom.

... I can't say to you at this moment what we are going to do, but I can say that everywhere in the Western free world and among the NATO nations unity of action is under continuing and constant review. The leaders in the free world are everywhere in consultation.

In NATO, Canada has a proud record. It has met its military goals in NATO. I believe that all nations belonging to that organization should bring their forces up to strength, not by way of threat but as an indication of the fact that the NATO nations are serious in the stands that they have taken and are united in their stand. NATO, I said a little earlier, has preserved the freedom of the West, and NATO forces must have the best and most effective defence and defence weapons that are available to them. There are some in Canada who advocate we should withdraw from NATO in the event that nuclear weapons are made available for the possession and control of NATO. I believe that to follow that course would be dangerous to the survival of the forces of NATO that are there now, should war begin. And it would be dangerous for the survival of freedom itself.