

CANADA'S PRESCRIPTION FOR A BETTER WORLD
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Warsaw Pact and the members of NATO. Under these circumstances, it was logical that representatives of these countries should have been given the initial responsibility for dealing with disarmament. The ten-power Committee is balanced between the East and West with five NATO countries and five Warsaw Pact countries represented.

"In the light of abortive efforts in the past to make progress towards general disarmament in United Nations groups, which were either so large as to be unwieldy or so unbalanced as between East and West as to frustrate genuine negotiation, there is, I believe, justification for assigning the initial responsibility for a new effort to a small group of balanced composition.

"For the time being, its link with the United Nations will be enough to ensure that the concern of the whole membership of the United Nations in disarmament will be kept alive. During this phase, it seems to me that Canada has a special responsibility to keep in mind the interest and anxiety of all member states in the question of disarmament, and Canada intends to bear this in mind.

"As progress is made in disarmament it will, I think, become necessary to set up an international disarmament body under the United Nations. At the outset, any disarmament body would almost certainly be preoccupied with the verification and control of agreed measures of disarmament. In the first instance, these control procedures no doubt will have to be in the hands, and under the direction, of those powers which agree to adopt such measures, but, at an early stage thereafter, however, there will almost certainly arise a need to bring the control machinery under the authority of the United Nations, which after all is the body charged with the responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security.

MAINTENANCE OF DEFENCES

"While Canada attaches the utmost importance to the pressing search for an adequately controlled and verified system of international disarmament, we must not blind ourselves to the fact that Soviet military strength continues to grow and that, pending agreement on disarmament, the obligation to maintain our own defences remains. I would remind you that Mr. Khrushchov, in announcing the recent cut-backs in Soviet conventional forces, made a point of stressing that overall Soviet military strength will not be diminished, but will be improved through the introduction of new weapons of all kinds into its forces. The dilemma of our times is when and how and in what circumstances we can safely make the transition from necessary

measures of defence to real measures of disarmament.

"We should not forget that the major deterrent to aggression in the post-war years has been the collective military strength of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization -- a defensive alliance of free nations who seek only to preserve peace and to maintain freedom. There is no doubt in my mind that peace in the world today depends not only on the willingness of both sides to resolve outstanding differences through negotiation but also on the continuing preparedness of the nations of the Western world in the meantime.

"In the present situation Canada's policy is clear. There must be no weakening in our support for NATO. The members of that alliance must maintain their collective strength while at the same time being ever-watchful for progress which can lead to an ultimate settlement of differences with the Soviet Bloc.

"For historical, geographical and other reasons, a policy of neutrality has never been acceptable to the Canadian people. We believe in independence but not in the sense that independence means detachment from the responsibility which we share with other members of the North Atlantic Alliance for the maintenance of freedom in the Western world. Canadians have shown by their participation in the cause of freedom in two World Wars that they want to stand by their friends. I am confident that their attitude in that respect has not changed. Support for the Alliance remains a cornerstone of both our defence and foreign policies. I believe that the Alliance continues to provide not only the best possible insurance against aggression but also the most effective political instrument we have yet devised for consultation with likeminded Western nations in respect of the highly important issues which divide the world today.

RISE OF NEW NATIONS

"In our preoccupation with the problems posed by the division between the Communist and non-Communist world, we must not lose sight of a development of no less far-reaching implications -- the emergence of a host of former colonial territories as independent nations -- each struggling for the material betterment of the standard of life of its citizens. Much of this development is taking place in areas in which Christian missionaries have made such a valuable contribution. Our Commonwealth of Nations has been outstanding for the guidance and leadership given in this field.

"It is in Africa that this process is now most significant, with former British territories in the vanguard of those attaining nationhood through peaceful transition. You will have heard it said that 1960 is "Africa's year". The reference, of course, is to the great revolution which has rapidly been gaining momentum in that great continent. You will