

President Johnson's recent statement about East-West relations was a notable contribution to these Western approaches. In the light of our own policies in this field, we naturally welcome a renewed effort by the United States, which could have a very important effect on the whole international atmosphere.

There have been few indications, of course, that progress could be made in the near future towards a settlement of the underlying problems of the European situation. Nevertheless, this is an area in which a number of countries might be able to help move the discussions towards a calm consideration of present realities and towards the tangible questions of inter-state relations in which the Communist countries say they are particularly interested.

We are faced in the European and North Atlantic area with the problem of security for the two groups of nations represented in NATO and the Warsaw Pact. We are faced with the problem of German reunification. Neither problem can be seriously considered without the other.

The United States, France, Britain and other Western nations have made attempts from different standpoints to promote a sober discussion of these problems. The Federal Republic of Germany has, in spite of the very great difficulties created by the division of Germany, made an important contribution to creating a better atmosphere by its steadily increasing contacts with East European nations. It has manifested its sincere desire, for example in a note of March 25, for peace, stability and security in Europe.

I hope that, as time goes by, we shall hear East European views on these matters, not conceived in ideological terms and dealing with the real problems which create tension in Europe today. I hope that the nations of Eastern Europe, with several of which Canada was allied in the last war, do not consider us lacking in a concern for their security when we try to achieve our own....

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