

CANADIAN REPLY TO KHRUSHCHEV

Released for publication this week, Prime Minister Diefenbaker's reply to the April 4 letter from Mr. Khrushchev on the subject of nuclear weapons testing asked for a clarification of the Soviet position with regard to the establishment of an international system for the verification of nuclear tests.

Mr. Diefenbaker's letter said in part: "Assuming that you are willing to exchange views on this problem with other governments, I should be interested to know what type of practical measures you have in mind to ensure that tests of nuclear weapons were not being conducted anywhere in the world. I should further like to know whether you are prepared to negotiate seriously on this issue in the immediate future through the United Nations or diplomatic channels, or whether you insist on delaying discussions on these matters until a summit meeting has been arranged."

The Prime Minister said that "Canadians have noted with concern the unjust accusations which your Government suddenly levelled against the United States in the Security Council on April 21, at a time when preliminary negotiations towards a summit conference were on the point of beginning in Moscow. I must also tell

you frankly that the people of Canada have watched incredulously the negative reaction of the Soviet Union to the proposals advanced on April 29 by the United States, for the prevention of surprise attack in the Arctic regions. This is the very area regarding which we as Canadians are especially concerned, and which we have repeatedly offered to open to international scrutiny."

Referring to the proposed summit meeting, Mr. Diefenbaker said:

"As you know, the Canadian Government has not been opposed to a summit meeting for which adequate preparation has been made in advance. You have yourself stressed the need for preparation, and I am sure that you would agree with me that considerable preliminary work will be required before satisfactory arrangements for a summit meeting can be completed. What I find difficult to understand and to justify is your view, if I have interpreted it correctly, that no progress can be made on such important and complicated questions as the control of nuclear tests and the prevention of surprise attack until the time for a summit meeting arrives."

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T. B. DEATH RATE FALLS

Canada's death toll from tuberculosis dropped still further in 1957 to establish a record low rate, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In 1941, 16 years ago, over 6,000 persons died of tuberculosis; in 1957, 1,183 died of this cause, only about one-fifth of the 1941 toll or an 80 per cent drop. However, since there has been a great increase in the Canadian population since that time the death rate has dropped from 52.8 (per 100,000 population) to 7.1. Corresponding 1956 figures were 1,256 deaths and a rate of 7.8.

Over the past two decades the declining tuberculosis death rate has not been limited to any single area in Canada and all provinces have experienced a similar decrease. While significant provincial differences remain over the years there has been a constant narrowing of the spread from the highest to the lowest rate.

Among males, tuberculosis mortality rates are almost double female rates for all ages, amounting to 9.3 compared with 4.9 in 1957. In most provinces the male rate far exceeds or is significantly higher than the female rate. Despite a drop in the male rate from 10.2 to 9.3 and in the female rate from 5.3 to 4.9 between 1956 and 1957, male rates moved upward in 5 provinces and female rates upward in 4 provinces.

Canada's experience is in line with the

general international trend in reduction of mortality from this cause. In the past dozen years, for example, the rate for England and Wales has declined from 62.8 per 100,000 population to less than 15 and in the United States there has been a decline from 41.4 to approximately 10. Both these countries now have higher rates than Canada.

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SHIPMENT TO ITALY

Two shipments, totalling 237.84 tons, of naval guns, spare barrels, mountings and magazines from reserve stores of the Royal Canadian Navy were made to Italy last month under Canada's programme of Mutual Aid to member nations of NATO.

Shipments of armament from RCN reserve stocks are made to European countries as allocated by the NATO Standing Group in Washington.

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IMMIGRATION TOTALS

Immigrant arrivals during the first three months of 1958 totalled 21,243, compared to 62,460 in the same period of 1957.

The Government placed restrictions on immigration last July as a result of rising unemployment. There has been no indication that the restrictions will be lifted at an early date.

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