

On the first day of the conference, there was an extensive review of the international situation dealing primarily with East-West relations. On behalf of Canada I took the position that NATO now has the initiative as a result of the Cuban crisis, and that every effort should be made to retain that initiative rather than getting into the position of always waiting for the Communist world to make the first move with NATO then acting in response to Communist initiatives.

Contingency Planning

It was agreed that the Alliance must be kept strong, and we believe as well that it should be prepared to negotiate at all times. I think that is a sound policy provided there is no letting down of the guard. We also suggested that there should be an attempt made now to do some contingency planning, as it is called, in the political and diplomatic fields. There has been such planning in the military and economic fields but not sufficient in the diplomatic field. For example, I think there should be several plans worked out which would cover what the Alliance should do in case the Russians sign a peace treaty with East Germany. This is the type of contingency planning I think should be done in the political and diplomatic field.

Then we went on to point out that there is a contact with the Communist world in the disarmament negotiations which are going on in Geneva. I did not deal with this subject at any length, but Canada is one of the four NATO countries represented on the Disarmament Committee and, of course, it is a very good field in which to negotiate.

We also dealt with the relationship between NATO and the United Nations. In days gone by there has been a tendency in NATO to write down the United Nations, for quite frequently NATO nations have been criticized in New York. Canada has felt that more importance should be placed in NATO on the activities of the United Nations. For example, we pointed out several ways in which NATO's position had been improved by activities at the United Nations within the last year, and perhaps the House might be interested in these six examples which I gave:

1. The increasing support which U Thant is receiving and which indirectly undermines the prospects for the troika approach.
2. The determined current effort to find a solution in the Congo and to reduce United Nations operations and costs. These are all examples of how United Nations activities have been of great help to NATO.
3. The satisfactory outcome of Belgium's transfer of power in Rwanda and Burundi.
4. France's brilliant achievement in bringing independence to Algeria.
5. The decision of the International Court on the sharing of the peace-keeping expenditures of the United Nations.