

I emphasize again the view I expressed on Friday, that it is our conviction that Mr. Nehru would have a real contribution to make to such a conference. In my speech in the house on Friday last I endeavoured to give reasons why he should be there, having regard to his personal ability, competence and wisdom and also as a representative of a new voice in Asia. This meeting to which I refer, which would be carried on under the auspices of the Security Council, would of course be a private meeting. I repeat again that it does not matter where it is held. Whether New York, with all its battery of publicity, is the best place for it I do not know. I have experienced to some extent the battery of speculators around the United Nations and I wonder whether it provides the calm and the serenity that is really necessary for a fruitful meeting. I am wondering whether the general publicity would not indeed be harmful. The Prime Minister, in good faith, having in mind this meeting might not be most fruitful if it were held in New York, made the serious suggestion, and reverted to what he said in an earlier letter to Mr. Bulganin, that we in Canada would act as hosts for such a meeting of this group authorized by the Security Council to carry on face to face negotiations. That is a serious proposal. I do not suppose that any country is quite in the same location as that of Canada. Here we are between the United States and the U.S.S.R.

We consider also that it should be left to the Security Council to decide what non-member nations would be permitted to be present at the full Council meeting, the second meeting, and in the third meeting to which the Secretary General would report. But we do consider that it is of the greatest importance to find a means of expressing to the Council and to this group, the opinions of the numerous countries of the area that I mentioned.

Negotiations for the Middle East summit meeting are still proceeding, as I said a moment ago. Having regard to the latest letter of Mr. Khrushchev you have as much information as I have because I have gained my information from the newspapers as you have. The United Kingdom Prime Minister replied to Mr. Khrushchev on July 26 and said that he considered the arrangements for the meeting—including time and composition—should be made by a regular meeting of the Security Council. Having in mind what I said to you this morning, this confirms our own view as to the procedure to be followed. But again I reiterate what I said on several occasions and said last in the House of Commons on Friday. I hope that these procedural matters will not be built up so as to bring about the impossibility of holding such a meeting.

Mr. Khrushchev's reply, made public yesterday July 28, presses for more rapid arrangements for the holding of the meeting and states that the U.S.S.R. would agree to its location in Geneva, Vienna, Paris or elsewhere. He did not object to New York. He criticized President Eisenhower's message for bypassing the question of the participation of India in the conference and he expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal that a regular session of the Security Council should make plans for and initiate the conference. There is some indication from the newspaper reports and partial quotations from his letter that he is not happy with such a scheme as I set out this morning, that is a regular session of the Security Council which would make plans for and initiate the conference. That is where the matter rests for the moment.

I would crave your indulgence, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee in order to comment on three very constructive proposals which are to be forwarded. Mr. Pearson referred in his statement in the house on July 25 to the next session of the General Assembly and he inquired quite properly about the preparations which the government is making for our participation in these meetings. He made this more pointed when he mentioned three matters in which he thought the government might take an initiative in the Assembly. The first one had to do with an initiative to try to halt the