

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

In a speech to the Canadian Women's Press Club in Ottawa on September 8, Prime Minister Diefenbaker discussed some current developments in the international situation.

Mr. Diefenbaker said in part:

"As you know, the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva came to an end last month, after two prolonged sessions of negotiations devoted mainly to the problems of Berlin and German reunification. While no solution to these problems was found, the Conference must be regarded as worthwhile, especially when one reflects on the possible alternatives. The threats of unilateral action on Berlin and of the use of force, which were being uttered by Soviet spokesmen last November, have receded into the background.

"Progress was not made on the broad question of reunification and European security. Differences over the Berlin situation were narrowed sufficiently to lay the groundwork for belief that some interim arrangement can be achieved pending a final settlement....

NEED FOR NEGOTIATION

"I believe that in the pursuit of a settlement of these outstanding differences the West must be prepared to negotiate in many ways and at all levels and at great length, according to the opportunities which present themselves.

"It was with these considerations in mind that the Canadian Government gave immediate support to President Eisenhower's decision to arrange for an exchange of visits with Premier Khrushchev. The Canadian Government welcomed it as evidence of the willingness of President Eisenhower, in his capacity as leader of the major power in the Western world, to assume the responsibilities which the strength and the position of his country bestow, no matter how onerous and unrewarding the task may be.

"I applaud the initiative which President Eisenhower has directed towards the creation of an atmosphere which would facilitate the beginnings of what must be a long and difficult process of negotiation.

"Similarly, the talks which the President has recently concluded with the heads of government in major capitals of Europe cannot but have a beneficial effect on the world situation. Before his departure, the President included amongst the purposes of his trip the support of Western unity; the search for progress on the problems of disarmament and German reunification; the strengthening of help to under-developed countries and the reaffirmation of the dedication of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty.

"In addition to his talks with heads of government, the President found time to attend briefly a meeting of the Permanent Council of NATO. He included in his comments on that occasion an assertion which I strongly en-

dorse, to the effect that no member nation need take a second place in the Organization, and that NATO is animated by a spirit of equality as well as by a determination to work to preserve those ideals which we all cherish.

"Canada's stand in this regard, which I made known in Paris and Bonn last December, is that Canada will not consent to any arrangement whereby any triumvirate of nations shall determine the policies of NATO.

"The President has made it clear that in his talks with Khrushchev he will not regard himself as a spokesman for the West, and that he will not be negotiating. His stated purpose is to explore Mr. Khrushchev's thinking and to find out for himself whether Mr. Khrushchev has any proposals which could reduce tensions and lead to beneficial future developments.

"The exchange of visits between President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev may not settle the question of a summit meeting. These are essentially bilateral talks which I hope will create a situation more conducive to negotiation. The Canadian Government has not changed its view that progress towards settlement of major international problems might be facilitated by a summit conference.

"While long range processes are going forward, certain current developments are encouraging. The fact that both the United States and the U.S.S.R. have undertaken to continue for the time being their suspension of nuclear tests is of importance, and gives some confidence that progress can be made toward an international agreement with adequate safeguards.

DISARMAMENT

"Some progress is being made on the long-standing problem of disarmament. As was announced on September 7, the major powers have been able to agree on the constitution of a new group to conduct disarmament discussions. This group will consist of ten countries. The five Western nations will be the United States, United Kingdom, France, Italy and Canada. Countries associated with the Soviet bloc will be the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Roumania and Bulgaria.

"Although the new group is being created by the four powers, it will have the advantage of the services of the United Nations Secretariat and will report to the United Nations Disarmament Commission, and through it to the General Assembly and the Security Council.

"In the very near future the four major powers will inform the other members of the existing 82-member Disarmament Commission of their conclusions in this regard, and will indicate their intentions of conducting through the new group further discussions on the problems of disarmament.

"It is worthy of note that the Soviet