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FREEDOM EAST AND WEST

The following are excerpts from an address by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker to the Weekly Newspapers Association at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on August 15:

"There has never been a time in the history of the world when the free and vigorous expression of public opinion is more important to the survival of mankind than now.

"This is so on the domestic scene and it is even more so in the larger sphere of international relationships.

"All the pronouncements of liberty and democratic freedoms in society are distilled into the everyday experience of living and enjoying them. The right to choose one's own life path, the freedom to be different, the freedom of assembly and speech, the privilege of choosing who shall govern us, and of such simple things as the house in which we live, the church we attend or the store from which we buy, or the employer who hires us, are the priceless inheritances of democracy. The right, if it is to survive, must be in constant exercise and that means public opinion must be, at all times, an effective influence on government action.

DRAFT OF COMMUNIST PROGRAMME

"It seems to me that it was these very priceless things which Khrushchov did not mention when he presented his draft programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on July 30, 1961. What struck me most about this document was not what it promised, but what it did not promise. There was no reference to those

things which in our tradition are basic elements of the democratic concept.

"This long Communist document, with years of preparation and thunderous launching, contained no hint that, in the Utopia which it says is to come, there will be anything which resembles a free election, or anything which suggests that the secret police will no longer be there, eternally vigilant to strike down those who disagree with the regime.

"There were no references to 'freedom of the press' or of the individual. There were no references to freedom of choice, which is the essence of a full life.

"The programme is a most politically primitive document. Let me give you an example. Western democracies which base their political systems on that of England settled some 300 years ago the fundamental problem of political succession. The operation of this system has enabled nations to transfer responsibilities from one government to another in an orderly way, taking into account the wishes of the governed. The acceptance of this principle is the beginning, not the end, of political wisdom.

"The Communist Party of the Soviet Union has never grappled with the problem of political succession. After Lenin's death and again after Stalin's there were periods of years of internal fighting and bloodshed before the successor was established in his dictatorial position. Now, in this new programme announced by Mr. Khrushchov, the first hesitant step is taken toward a solution of the problem.

(Over)