



CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

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### RETREAT FROM THE SUMMIT

A statement to the House of Commons on  
May 18, 1960, by Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

I think I should say a word at this time regarding the abrupt termination of the summit meeting in Paris. There was an opportunity for progress and improvement at this meeting which had awakened the hopes of millions of people throughout the world. For reasons of his own, reasons which I think all members of this House regard as totally unjustifiable, Chairman Khrushchev has refused to meet with the other participants. By so doing he ended, before the sessions had properly begun, all hopes of achievement at this conference.

Any cause for complaint which the Soviet leader may have felt had been removed by President Eisenhower's assurances on May 16 that over-flights had been stopped and would not be resumed. The President did this even though there was no indication that the Soviet Union was willing to give equal assurances that objectionable activities for which it was responsible would also end.

There have been periods in the past when East-West relations were characterized by sustained acrimony, but recently it had been the expectation of people everywhere in the world that we were moving into a better era where we would solve our problems by reasonable negotiation. I think I express the views of all ... Members of this House when I say that, despite the tragic international drama of yesterday and the developments of the last few days, mankind has not been thrown all the way back into the frightening gloom of the cold war.

The NATO Council will meet tomorrow. The NATO powers have been working and will continue to work toward the establishment of good relations between East and West as a basis for negotiation and settlement. It remains essential that despite the admitted setbacks of the last few days, efforts to make progress toward peace and security must not be abandoned, for the return to cold war will be as detrimental to East and West, as a relaxation will be beneficial to both.