

Communist world to develop. We believe that through trade we shall encourage the evolution of institutions and attitudes in the Communist countries more favourable to co-operation with the rest of the world.

Recent Easing of Tension

It is essential, I believe, to assess realistically the elements which have contributed to the better atmosphere which undoubtedly does prevail at the present time....

Apart from the critical role of the Cuban crisis in stimulating a re-examination of policies in both the East and the West, the concrete steps taken toward the easing of tensions have in fact been few in number. They consist exclusively of measures to slow down the arms race or reduce the danger of a sudden outbreak of war, but they leave completely unresolved all the political problems which could give rise to war.

The measures are three limited agreements, all falling within the general field, which might be classed as preliminary to disarmament. First, a direct emergency communications system has been established between Washington and Moscow which should do much to ensure that war between East and West does not come about as a result of accident or miscalculation. The difficulty encountered in communicating rapidly at the time of the Cuban crisis was evidently enough to induce the Soviet Union to accept this measure, which the United States had first proposed in April 1962.

Second, there was the Moscow treaty banning nuclear weapons testing in all environments except underground, signed by the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union on August 5, 1963. Canada signed the treaty in the capitals of the three depository governments on August 8, 1963. It was an unprecedented first step toward limiting, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the production of nuclear weapons, and of course it carried with it the enormous human dividend of removing the most serious source of radioactive contamination of the atmosphere and seas.

But above all the signature of this treaty by the nuclear powers, and its subsequent acceptance by over 100 states, proved that by patient exploration agreements can be arrived at which serve the interests of both East and West. Its real significance lies in the prospect it holds out for a broader settlement of East-West questions by the same process. On the Western side, it was accomplished without any sacrifice of principle or of security, and involved no political concessions....

The third limited agreement was that reached at the United Nations between the United States and the Soviet Union to refrain from stationing or orbiting nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction in outer space. This took the form of separate expressions of intention by the Soviet Union and the United States, which were welcomed by a unanimous resolution of the General Assembly in October last;...this is a measure which successive Canadian Governments have advocated.