

The fact that we find ourselves in this dire situation may well have some salutary effect. Surely it is not too much to hope that some good will come out of the present dangerous situation. If these facilities were dismantled this would represent a first practical step on the road to disarmament, and if some such suggestion as I made a few days ago were coupled with international inspection of the process then we might well find ourselves taking the first steps away from the dangerous abyss that we have faced for so long in the world.

*Concerning the decision of Mr. Khrushchov to remove the Soviet missiles recently installed in Cuba and Mr. Kennedy's response to this announcement, Prime Minister Diefenbaker said on October 29:*

. . . We meet today in an atmosphere considerably less tense than that which prevailed over the last few anxious days. Members of the House will have watched with attention the rapid developments over the week-end which reached their climax yesterday morning in Chairman Khrushchov's decision to order the dismantling of Soviet missile sites in Cuba and the removal of the missiles to the Soviet Union. There is no need to recapitulate in detail what transpired, except perhaps to clarify one development which was confusing at the time and introduced for a while a dangerous element of uncertainty.

Chairman Khrushchov had sent a message to President Kennedy offering to dismantle the Soviet bases in Cuba in exchange for a United States undertaking to remove the quarantine measures and to give assurance against invasion of Cuba. Within a few hours Moscow radio was broadcasting the text of a further Khrushchov message which seemed to impose a new condition to the Soviet offer by linking the question of Soviet withdrawal of missiles from Cuba with a similar withdrawal by the United States of missiles from Turkey. This attempt to raise the price in circumstances which left unclear just what the Soviet Union was or was not prepared to do in order to meet the insistent United States demand that the Cuba threat be liquidated first became for a time a complicating factor which it was feared might upset the hopeful development which had seemed about to be achieved. The uncertainty thus caused was finally removed only when Chairman Khrushchov gave orders to dismantle the missile bases in Cuba under UN supervision.

Members of the House will be glad that the threat posed by the long-range Soviet missiles in Cuba will be speedily removed. However, I think it is worth while warning again that none of us should take anything for granted in this tense situation, as there still remain a number of potential hurdles. Premier Castro's position is still a factor to be taken into account, and his preliminary reactions are not as encouraging as they might be.

There is still the complex if not difficult question of verification under UN supervision to be worked out; and there is little time in which to work out and accomplish what must be done in this connection. U Thant, the Acting Secretary-General, is to go tomorrow to Havana to pave the way for UN surveillance of