

and under the direction of those powers which agree to adopt such measures, but, at an early stage thereafter, however, there will almost certainly arise a need to bring the control machinery under the authority of the United Nations - which after all, is the body charged with the responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security.

Defences Essential

While Canada attaches the utmost importance to the pressing search for an adequately controlled and verified system of international disarmament, we must not blind ourselves to the fact that Soviet military strength continues to grow and that pending agreement on disarmament the obligation to maintain our own defences remains. I would remind you that Mr. Khrushchov, in announcing the recent cut-backs in Soviet conventional forces, made a point of stressing that over-all Soviet military strength will not be diminished, but will be improved through the introduction of new weapons of all kinds into its forces. The dilemma of our times is when and how and in what circumstances we can safely make the transition from necessary measures of defence to real measures of disarmament.

We should not forget that the major deterrent to aggression in the post-war years has been the collective military strength of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization - a defensive alliance of free nations who seek only to preserve peace and to maintain freedom. There is no doubt in my mind that peace in the world today depends not only on the willingness of both sides to resolve outstanding differences through negotiation but also on the continuing preparedness of the nations of the Western world in the meantime.

In the present situation Canada's policy is clear. There must be no weakening in our support for NATO. The members of that alliance must maintain their collective strength while at the same time being ever-watchful for progress which can lead to an ultimate settlement of differences with the Soviet bloc.

For historical, geographical and other reasons, a policy of neutrality has never been acceptable to the Canadian people. We believe in independence but not in the sense that independence means detachment from the responsibility which we share with other members of the North Atlantic alliance for the maintenance of freedom in the Western world. Canadians have shown by their participation in the cause of freedom in two world wars that they want to stand by their friends. I am confident that their attitude in that respect has not changed. Support for the alliance remains a corner-stone of both our defence and foreign policies. I believe that the Alliance continues to provide not only the best possible insurance against aggression but also the most effective political instrument we have yet devised for consultation with like-minded Western nations in respect of the highly important issues which divide the world today.