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THE PRIME MINISTER'S TOUR

Mr. John G. Diefenbaker, the Prime Minister of Canada, returned to Canada on December 14 from a tour of Europe and Commonwealth countries. Mr. Diefenbaker and his party left Ottawa on October 28 in a R.C.A.F. aircraft. After a brief stop-over in New York, he went on to London, England, where he remained until November 5. From there the Prime Minister visited the following countries: France, Germany, Italy, Iran, Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, returning by way of Honolulu.

Speaking on the CBC television national networks on December 21, Mr. Diefenbaker said:

"As you know, I have recently returned from an extended series of meetings with the heads-of-state and others in Western Europe and Asia. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss and assess the responsibilities which Canada has assumed within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty alliance and the Commonwealth of Nations for the maintenance of world peace and the advancement of the universal brotherhood of mankind.

"Tonight I report to you on these discussions, without trespassing on the rights of Parliament to hear my report in detail. In these last few weeks, I have had the honour to speak and listen, on your behalf, to many eminent world leaders, as well as to Canada's Ambassadors and High Commissioners and other Canadians abroad.

"In all these talks, I feel sure that substantial progress was made towards our individual and mutual objectives.

"Je vous fais part ce soir de ces discussions, sans restreindre pour autant le droit qu'a le Parlement d'entendre, de ma bouche, un compte rendu d'étaille de mon voyage. Au cours des quelques dernières semaines j'ai eu l'honneur de m'entretenir, en votre nom, avec les dirigeants de divers Etats, ainsi qu'avec des ambassadeurs et haut commissaires du Canada et d'autres Canadiens se trouvant à l'étranger.

"Je suis sûr que, dans tous ces entretiens, nous avons progressé vers nos objectifs tant mutuels que particuliers.

"There is no substitute for personal experience - for the "feel" of places and peoples that comes with even a moment's participation in their way of life. My visit to the lands of Asia and of the Commonwealth was made with fresh eyes eager to see, to learn, to absorb and to determine for myself the spirit emerging in those societies.

"I have come back more convinced than ever of the importance of these personal meetings with national leaders. The more we know each other, the more likely we are to find amicable solutions of our differences: to understand the viewpoints and problems of others; and to appreciate the basic goodness and goodwill in the hearts of human beings. This is something

(Over)