

the time had come for the NATO nations to re-examine the capacity of that alliance to deal with the problems which lie ahead. Hon. Members will recall that at the Ministerial Meeting of NATO last December the United States Secretary of State proposed that a study be made of long-range planning for the 1960's. My view, which I expressed to the President, was that recent international happenings had increased the urgency of undertaking this study.

The United States is already engaged in preliminary work along these lines. My view was that, after that study had been fully proceeded with, the NATO governments should give early and serious attention to the holding of a meeting at heads-of-government level in order that those who have the responsibilities of leadership may join in a collective effort to establish and sketch new lines of endeavour for NATO in the years ahead. All of us are fully conscious of the importance of thorough preliminary consultation, for unless we achieve the free inter-flow of ideas and suggestions in the future we cannot take advantage of the opportunity to open up new and secure paths of progress for the alliance.

I further stated that should it be agreed that a heads-of-government meeting of NATO should take place, Canada would be prepared to extend invitations to the NATO leaders to hold that meeting in Canada.

Aerial Inspection.

I discussed with the President the proposal which he put forward first in 1955, and to which he referred in recent public statements, that consideration should be given to a system of aerial inspection as a means of removing the threat of surprise attack. In that connection, he pointed out the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition in support of action in that direction. The President confirmed that study was being given to the "open-skies" proposal. I said that such a proposal, if and when advanced in the United Nations, should have co-sponsors and that Canada would join in sponsoring an appropriate resolution in that regard.

Other subjects were generally of an international nature, the outlook for progress on disarmament and the ending of nuclear-weapons tests. There was agreement on the importance of pursuing negotiations on these matters which would serve at the moment as important and continuing points of contact with the Soviet Government. Information on the most recent Soviet disarmament plans as enunciated by Mr. Khrushchov was not available in comprehensive form and it was therefore not possible to discuss this development in any detail. However, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs said in the House last Friday, although the Soviet proposals are heavily weighted in propaganda aspects, the Western nations should demonstrate a readiness to examine them with serious intent, and the agency for that consideration exists in the 10-nation Committee on Disarmament which will resume its deliberations tomorrow in Geneva.