



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 61/12

CANADA IN A WORLD IN CRISIS

The following address was made to the House of Commons in Committee of Supply, on September 11, 1961, by Prime Minister Diefenbaker

...The thanks of the Committee are due to all Hon. Members for the way in which they dealt with this very important question not only of West Berlin but of the world situation generally and the several things referred to by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in outlining matters for the consideration of the Committee. I am not going into the field of defence today, or of measures that are being taken for national survival. These will be dealt with when the departmental estimates in which these matters are dealt with come before the Committee. I want to say further in that connection that I appreciate the co-operation of the Opposition and the attitude taken by all members of the Opposition in permitting the motion for supply to go through this morning without debate in order to ensure that there would be no delay in the discussion of those questions of national and international importance that face us today.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the contribution he made in answering some myths that have achieved widespread circulation during recent weeks. One of them is that Berlin is a crisis that propaganda built, a view expressed by one or more journalists or pundits in various parts of Canada. The other is that Canadians are the victims of propaganda to make them believe there is a crisis over Berlin. The Leader of the Opposition dealt effectively with those who hold that view...

The Leader of the Opposition made some reference to a speech I made recently before the Canadian Bar Association, and gave general approval thereto. I can only say that this is one time I most heartily reciprocate the words he used, when he stated that he thought I struck the right note. In order to keep in harmony with that attitude, I say of him as he said of me that in his speech in the House the other day I thought he struck the right note.

While differences are bound to occur between Government and Opposition, differences which are a vital necessity of democratic government, there does come a time when issues transcend political considerations, and this is one of those times. All of us have as our purpose and our aim