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FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA'S EXTERNAL POLICY

The Canadian Club of Ottawa was told by Prime Minister Diefenbaker on November 24 that the "essential foundations" of Canada's international policies were "the Commonwealth, the United Nations and NATO." The speaker observed that another meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers would be held either in March or April 1961, during which certain subjects would be broached that would "either strengthen or weaken the position of the Commonwealth in the years ahead." He expressed his belief, however, "in the spirit that has characterized the Commonwealth in the past as it meets changing and changed conditions, without any formal agreements, and without any compulsion".

The balance of Mr. Diefenbaker's address was devoted to the other two "foundations" of Canada's external policies:

"...All of you have been following the present session of the United Nations General Assembly. It opened at a time when all that remained of the 'summit' was a rubble of disappointed hopes. Disarmament negotiations had been brought to a stop. Berlin was again a source of discord and danger. Peace was threatened in the Congo and in Laos. Nothing that was occurring at that time gave any hope of reducing, much less removing, the possibility of a miscalculation by one side or another which would result in world catastrophe.

"What of the intervening months? What are the hopes of mankind today? There has been no significant or immediate change for the bet-

ter. Peace continues to be dependent on the precarious premises and unpredictable personalities in Moscow and Peking. The best that may be said today is that we are at the crossroads. We either go forward in the months ahead to greater harmony, or we relapse into still greater tension.

SHADOW OF FEAR

"I would recommend to you...if you want to get a picture of the situation in the world today, to read those magazines that come from China. The aggressive declarations of the leaders of mainland China in tone and content cast a frightening shadow of fear over mankind. Their views are threatening and the necessity of a realistic review of the situation becomes necessary and mandatory. There is no doubt that Canada has a vital interest in the future character of the relations of mainland China to the general stream of world politics. So vast and almost numberless a people cannot be ignored. The world is too interlocked with its common dangers to exclude almost one-quarter of the human race from the areas of major political settlement.

"You saw what happened at the United Nations - the histrionic bluster of Chairman Khrushchov, his smiles and his sneers even to the accompaniment of pounding shoes. This and the riddle of the Soviet relationship with Communist China in recent months, as well as the language of Peking, bellicose and threatening, assail us with fears and potential dangers.