

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 58/1 Exchange of Correspondence between Mr. N.A. Bulganin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., and Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker. (Letters of December 13 and January 18)

December 13, 1957.

Dear Prime Minister,

The Soviet Government is deeply worried with the present state of international relations. That is why I am addressing this letter to you in order to share with you our considerations concerning the causes of the further increase in international tension and those possible measures which, we believe, should be taken toward the normalization of the international situation and the creating of the necessary confidence in relations between states.

The recent activities of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) have convinced us that measures are being taken, on the initiative of the USA and Great Britain, to sharply increase military preparations, to prepare for nuclear war. At the recent meeting in Washington the heads of the governments of those powers have taken a decision for the re-organization of the NATO system aimed at mobilizing all military, economic, and scientific resources of the members of NATO for a further arms race including the production on a large scale of the newest kinds of death-dealing nuclear and missile weapons.

As is seen from the statements of leading political and military persons in the countries belonging to the North Atlantic Alliance, a session of the NATO Council, which will soon open in Paris, will occupy itself with working out new strategic plans of the Western powers which would provide for the broad use of atomic and hydrogen weapons. It is also intended that the territories of a number of NATO countries will be used for storing American nuclear weapons and for building rocket-launching bases. The sponsors of these plans of NATO and, first of all, those influential circles which seek to aggravate the international situation, speak openly of their intention to secure at the coming session of NATO a further strengthening in the military-industrial potential of Western Germany. In practice this will mean an increase in the militarization of Western Germany.

The adoption of these decisions would inevitably lead to a further increase of tension in relations among countries, to a further aggravation of the international situation, to an unrestrained arms race, to an intensification of the "cold war", to a condition when efforts would be made to have the world on "the brink of war" not occasionally but constantly.

There are reports that the question of storing American atomic and hydrogen weapons on Canadian territory and of creating bases on this territory for launching rockets with hydrogen warheads is being discussed intensively at the present time. It is not difficult to realize that under conditions when, for a long time now, it has been permissible