

TOWARD A NUCLEAR TEST BAN

On March 21, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, replied as follows to a question asked in the House of Commons concerning the resumption at Geneva of negotiations for a nuclear-test ban:

"As the House is fully aware, this Government remains firmly opposed to the testing of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. Agreement among the nuclear powers on a definitive cessation of such tests under effective international control would give a welcome assurance that the world would be safeguarded against the hazards they entail. Therefore we are greatly encouraged by the many indications there are that the United States will put forward new and far-reaching proposals in a sincere attempt to bridge the remaining differences that separate them from the U.S.S.R. in this field.

"This development brings fresh hope to governments and peoples in all countries, large and small, whose interests are so intimately caught up in the success or failure of the Geneva talks. I understand that it will take some days for the new United States position to be outlined in its entirety to the Soviet side. Of course during that period we will be watching with interest and concern to see how the U.S.S.R. will respond to these advances.

"...These talks were commenced in October, 1958, I think it was, and during that time there has been a moratorium on further nuclear tests by the three nations engaged in the talks. This moratorium continues today. We are very hopeful that there will be beneficial results when the talks are resumed.

SEAWAY TRAFFIC REPORT, 1960

The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation recently released a report on St. Lawrence Seaway traffic during the 1960 navigation season. The report includes traffic statistics for the St. Lawrence River section from Montreal to Lake Ontario and for the Welland Canal section. Traffic summaries are also included for the Lachine Canal, the Cornwall Canal and the Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie.

Twenty tables are shown in the report for the St. Lawrence River section and the same number for the Welland Canal section. The cargo traffic is also classified by commodity either upbound or downbound, by nationality of vessels carrying cargo and by size of vessels, as well as various other statistical data.

The report also includes information on Seaway traffic originating and terminating at selected Canadian and United States ports.

...the Secretary of State for External Affairs would have hoped for a more rapid approach towards a resolution of the problem...

EFFECT ON COMMONWEALTH

The question of the effect on the Commonwealth of the decision to withdraw from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was discussed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, in the House of Commons on March 21, 1961.

Mr. Green said that the decision to withdraw from the OECD was a matter of internal policy and that it would not affect the United Kingdom's membership in the Commonwealth. He said that the Commonwealth was a voluntary association and that the United Kingdom was free to withdraw from any organisation at any time.

Mr. Green also said that the decision to withdraw from the OECD was a result of a long and difficult process of negotiation with the other members of the Organisation. He said that the United Kingdom had been unable to reach an agreement with the other members on the terms of withdrawal.

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