



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 17 No. 12

March 21, 1962

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NEIGHBOURING LEGISLATORS CONFER

The Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group concluded two days of discussion in Ottawa on March 2. Twenty-three members of the Parliament of Canada and 16 members of the Congress of the United States, representing all political parties, participated in the discussions. The Canadian delegation was led by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons, Mr. Mark Drouin and Mr. Roland Michener. The co-chairmen of the United States delegation were Senator George Aiken from Vermont and Mr. Cornelius Gallagher, Member of the House of Representatives for New Jersey, assisted by Mr. Laurence Curtis, member of the House for Massachusetts.

This was the sixth meeting of the Group, which held its first and organizational meeting in Washington in January 1959. Since that time, meetings have been held alternately in Canada and the United States. The fifth session was held in Washington in June 1961.

The United States delegates were welcomed at the opening plenary session on March 1 by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker.

Committee meetings were held on both days. One committee discussed defence and foreign-policy matters of mutual interest and the other discussed economic and boundary matters of concern to both countries. The agreed summary reports of the two committees which were approved at the final plenary session follow:

COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND FOREIGN POLICY BERLIN AND EUROPEAN SECURITY

The Committee opened its discussion with a consideration of the status of Berlin and the problem of European security. The discussion reflected no differences of opinion as to the Canadian and the United

States approach to the Berlin situation and the basic position from which any negotiations with the Soviet Union should proceed. Major attention, therefore, centered around how the present difficulties arising over Berlin should be approached to reduce tensions with the Soviet Union.

The rights accorded the West under the quadripartite arrangements must be maintained. Any search for an accommodation with the Soviet Union must take into account three points upon which the West must stand firm: (1) the rights of the people of West Berlin; (2) the rights of the occupying powers to be in the city; and (3) the right of the Western powers to have access to the city. Any negotiations with the Soviet Union must seek to clarify the latter point so that there will be firm guarantees given the West to have access to the city not only by means of the present four air corridors but also of specific land, rail and water corridors.

The Berlin problem is symptomatic of the many large issues that must be carefully and thoroughly explored, first among the Western powers and then with the Soviet Union at the diplomatic level, before the convocation of a summit conference.

CHINA POLICY

The Committee noted that since the Group's last meeting the question of the admission of a Communist Chinese delegation to the United Nations had been considered and had been rejected, but that the matter would again confront the next meeting of the General Assembly. While neither Canada nor the United States has recognized the Peoples' Republic of China, it was reported that there is a body of opinion in Canada which favours Canada granting recognition. There was