

that there is some evidence that the international climate may be improving. The U.S.S.R. wants to discuss with us many problems. Certainly it should be evident to all sane men that there is a great interest in avoiding the mutual destruction of mankind in a nuclear conflict. May the desire for discussions on the part of Mr. Khrushchev and his comrades be a genuine readiness to negotiate in this particular instance of Berlin and Germany, rather than an attempt to impose their will on the three occupying powers and the two and a half million people in West Berlin to whose security we have pledged ourselves.

I conclude by saying that we wish and hope, as I am sure does every member of this House, that a meeting or meetings between the West and the Soviet Bloc will provide a greater mutual trust and confidence, even if that desideratum be reached only gradually.

Canadian Reply to Soviet Note

Ottawa,
February 17, 1959

Excellency

I have the honour to transmit the reply of the Canadian Government to the Note concerning the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany dated January 10, 1959, from the Government of the U.S.S.R.

As the Soviet Government's Note points out, the absence of a peace settlement with Germany leaves unresolved many important problems. The Canadian Government contests a number of statements in the Soviet Government's Note, but is of the opinion that these points should be examined as part of a general review of the German question in all its aspects by representatives of the four states, the U.S.S.R., France, the United States and the United Kingdom, which, as former occupying powers, have special responsibilities for Germany. The Canadian Government considers that until the results of such a four-power meeting have been assessed it would not be useful to take a decision as to the holding of a large peace treaty conference attended by Canada and other participants in the war against Germany.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

SIDNEY SMITH

His Excellency Dr. A. A. Aroutunian,
Ambassador of the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics
OTTAWA