

countries and the Soviet zone of Germany. You speak of co-existence, but if this concept means recognition of the existence side by side of capitalist and communist countries, it must also imply non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries including those of Eastern Europe. The events in Hungary of 1956 have not faded from our minds.

The idea of the status quo is extended in your letter to cover the Middle East. I would like to emphasize that Canada is making a positive contribution to stability and peace through its participation in the United Nations Emergency Force. We hope that no power, including the U.S.S.R., will take any step which would interfere with the important duties which the United Nations Emergency Force is now performing with such a gratifying degree of success.

As a member of the Disarmament Commission and Sub-committee of the United Nations, we are studying the comments which you made on a proposal put forward earlier by Poland for the creation of a zone in central Europe free of nuclear armaments. The NATO Communiqué pointed out that we are prepared to examine any proposal, from whatever source, for general or partial disarmament and we therefore intend to join with our NATO allies in looking into the implications of this type of proposal. One factor in considering such proposals would be the readiness of the participants to undertake an adequate system of inspection and control.

Your suggestion that a meeting of representatives at a high level could usefully be held would receive my immediate support if there were adequate assurance that beneficial results could be expected. Past experience has shown, however, that such meetings if they are to be fruitful must be carefully prepared through diplomatic and other channels. I am sure that you will agree that a meeting of this kind which did not lead to positive agreement on at least some of the basic issues with which we are confronted might result in a public reaction more likely to heighten than lessen world tension. In order not to disappoint public opinion in our respective countries we must therefore, I submit, make sure that such a meeting be prepared in advance with the utmost care. You may be aware that there has been a suggestion in the Canadian House of Commons that the Government might invite the participants in such a meeting to consider holding it in Canada. This suggestion was undoubtedly prompted by the consideration that Canada is the next-door neighbour of the United States and the U.S.S.R. and has a special relationship to Commonwealth countries and to France. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that when the participants decide that they are ready to call such a meeting and should they decide to hold it in Canada, they will be welcome.

With your final assertion, Mr. Chairman - that neighbours should live in a spirit of good neighbourliness - there can, of course, be no disagreement. We have been living in a state of warm friendship with our great neighbour to the south for generations and we would hope to develop similar friendly relations with our neighbour to the north. As is well known to you, the exchange of visits and information between Canada and the U.S.S.R. over the past several years has increased considerably. Our countries have explored a wide range of exchanges in the technical, scientific, cultural and commercial fields and a number of these have been implemented. We welcomed the recent visit of a trade group from the U.S.S.R. We hope that there can be an