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External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 61/8

Joint Communiqué issued by President Kennedy of the United States and Prime Minister Diefenbaker of Canada, following discussions held May 17, 1961, in Ottawa.

President Kennedy and Prime Minister Diefenbaker stated that they had had a welcome opportunity of renewing the personal contact they established during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington in February and of examining together questions of concern to both their governments. Their discussions covered broad international issues as well as specific Canadian-United States questions.

United Nations

The President and Prime Minister stated their confidence in the United Nations as an organization dedicated to the peaceful settlement of differences and the defence of national and human rights.

Disarmament

They reaffirmed that the goal sought by both countries is a secure world order in which there can be general disarmament under effective controls. They agreed, in particular, that the negotiation of a nuclear test ban treaty with effective provisions for inspection was a basic step in the process of moving towards disarmament.

Defence

The President and Prime Minister examined certain aspects of U.S.-Canadian defence arrangements and the international defence commitments which both countries have assumed, notably in NATO. They expressed the conviction that a strong defence must be maintained until such time as effective disarmament measures can be secured under proper safeguards. They agreed that it is more than every necessary that the strength and unity of NATO be reinforced.

Western Hemisphere

The President and Prime Minister discussed the need for accelerating economic progress and social reform throughout the hemisphere, as well as the need to strengthen the strong hemispheric trend away from dictatorship and towards democracy. They recognized that these objectives are closely related. They were in accord that the alignment of a régime in the Western hemisphere with Communist leadership abroad was a matter for serious concern, threatening as it did the peaceful and democratic evolution of the Latin-American peoples. The Prime Minister assured the President of Canada's continued and increasing interest in inter-American affairs.

Laos

The President and Prime Minister examined the problem of Laos. They reaffirmed the objective of negotiating at Geneva a truly independent and neutral Laos. In this connection they examined the experience of the International Control and Supervisory Commission created by the Geneva Accords of 1954. They agreed that