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NEW APPROACH TO DISARMAMENT

On June 15 the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Green, made the following statement to the House of Commons in reply to a question about the current disarmament negotiations and in anticipation of further questions concerning the exchange of letters between Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Khrushchov on the subject of the latest Soviet disarmament proposals:

"...In the Canadian view it is important that in these negotiations all ten nations represented on the Committee should lose no opportunity to explore every possible avenue of progress in disarmament. The Canadian delegation has constantly in mind, and tries to make certain that the whole Committee bears in mind, that not only two nations or ten nations but all the nations of the world have a vital interest in disarmament. It is certain that the members of the Committee will be held to account by the other nations of the world if they neglect opportunities for progress in disarmament.

SEARCHING STUDY

"It was in this spirit that the Prime Minister replied to Mr. Khrushchov's letter forwarding the latest Soviet proposals. The Canadian Government wants these proposals to receive a patient and searching examination in the Ten-Nation Committee, as marking the opening of a phase of detailed, business-like and uninterrupted negotiations. We believed there should be no hasty, ill-considered

reaction to the new Soviet proposals, but the most careful and constructive examination of these proposals in the Committee which circumstances permit. General Burns has been instructed accordingly, and I am happy to say that the other members of the Western Five on the Committee fully share this view.

"I am particularly glad to report this unanimous view of the Western representatives because, as the House is aware, the members of the Western group have had their differences from time to time in the past. The Canadian delegation for its part has, on several occasions, been instructed to present views contrary to those expressed by other members of the Western Five, whenever this seemed warranted. We would not hesitate to authorize the Canadian delegation to follow a similarly independent line again if circumstances so dictated. But for the present no such need exists, and M. Moch has rightly stressed the solidarity of the Western Five...The Western Five advanced their proposals some time ago and indicated their willingness to enter upon detailed negotiations. The Eastern nations are now speaking in support of the new Soviet proposals of June 2 and have indicated that these provide a basis for negotiation. These latest proposals are now being further explained by the Eastern countries, partly as a result of questioning by the Western members of the Committee.

"In the course of this clarification, on June 9, General Burns pointed to several