

*Supply—External Affairs*

powers into negotiations on Germany and disarmament. In amplifying that statement he apparently said that by taking a tough line he hoped to make the Atlantic alliance agree to merging the discussions at Geneva on a nuclear test ban treaty with negotiations for general and complete disarmament.

There is no doubt that world opinion has been profoundly shocked by the statement and also by the actions which followed so quickly on the heels of the statement. I refer to the conducting of four nuclear tests in the atmosphere, where of course the radiation and fall-out are of the maximum degree. The United States has now decided that in the face of these actions by the Soviet union it must undertake nuclear tests, although they are not of the same type and are reported as being such that they do not produce fall-out. They will be tests in the laboratory and tests underground.

In the meantime a very statesmanlike step was taken by President Kennedy and Prime Minister Macmillan of the United Kingdom when they appealed to the Soviet premier on September 3 in the following words:

The President of the United States of America and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom propose to Chairman Khrushchev that their three governments agree, effective immediately, not to conduct nuclear tests which take place in the atmosphere and produce radioactive fall-out. Their aim in this proposal is to protect mankind from the increasing hazards from atmospheric pollution and to contribute to the reduction of international tensions.

They urge Chairman Khrushchev to cable his immediate acceptance of this offer and his cessation of further atmospheric tests.

They further urge that their representatives at Geneva meet not later than September 9 to record this agreement and report it to the United Nations. They sincerely hope that the U.S.S.R. will accept this offer, which remains open for the period indicated.

They point out that with regard to atmospheric testing the United States and the United Kingdom are prepared to rely upon existing means of detection, which they believe to be adequate, and are not suggesting additional controls. But they reaffirm their serious desire to conclude a nuclear test ban treaty applicable to other forms of testing as well, and regret that the U.S.S.R. has blocked such an agreement.

As yet there has been no reply to that appeal, and I am sure I speak for all members of the house when I say that we still hope Premier Khrushchev will agree to the proposal which has been made.

In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, the great tragedy of 1961 has been that Soviet leaders have not understood or have ignored the fact that President Kennedy and his top advisers have, from the start of their administration, genuinely desired to bring about a reduction in world tension. We know that for a fact because of our contacts with these United States leaders.

For Canadians it is so important at this time not to add fuel to the flames with the world hovering on the brink of a nuclear war. We must do our utmost to help to reduce tension, and the government has been doing that during the recent very serious weeks. We must not lose our heads but must show Canadian common sense. Common sense is one of the finest qualities in the Canadian character, and now is the time to remember this and to show that common sense in our talk and in our actions.

In addition, we must continue our idealistic approach to world affairs. Because the situation is serious is no excuse for Canadians to abandon the idealistic approach they have had down through their history. These attributes have been shown by Canadians for a long time. Such is our record, and this is what is expected of us now by all nations, including the nations in the communist camp. A few weeks ago in Geneva I had a brief talk with Mr. Gromyko, the foreign minister of the Soviet union. There was, of course, a certain amount of banter but finally he said "I know that Canada stands for peace". That is our reputation in world affairs, and it is a very good reputation to have.

Today I propose to deal with certain material factors in the present world situation. Ordinarily I would go on to cover various other subjects which probably are of equal importance, but I plan today to deal with the facts relative to the present serious situation and later during the discussion of the estimates I shall try to deal with these other subjects.

First of all let me deal with nuclear tests. The tremendous world interest in nuclear tests is because people are rightly afraid of the effects of radiation and fall-out. They remember what happened at Hiroshima and they know that the damage and destruction would be infinitely greater in a nuclear holocaust with the present hydrogen bombs. They are worried about the effect not only on themselves but on the generations to come.

For this reason, and also in the hope that an agreement to ban nuclear tests would be a long step toward a general disarmament agreement, the three nuclear powers, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet union, decided nearly three years ago to try to work out a nuclear test ban agreement. France did not participate in that conference and, I think unfortunately, in the intervening period set off certain nuclear blasts, although the other three countries until last week maintained a moratorium on any further testing.

This conference held its 339th meeting this week and it meets again on Saturday, September 9, in Geneva. Up to the end of last year