

of Indonesia. So, while, on the one hand, there is this *détente*, the problems that divide East and West have yet to be resolved. There is, therefore, no justification for overstatement; nor is there any justification for failure to appreciate the extent to which progress is being made in relations between East and West.

The Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee will be holding its session in Geneva on January 20. We at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting gave consideration to some aspects of the problems that will arise at Geneva. There is a strong disposition to take advantage of the Geneva meeting to see if further agreement, even on a limited scale, might not be achieved on disarmament. I think it is wise to be realistic and to recognize the realities that may not make possible a wide area of agreement on disarmament at this time. I indicated that Canada would pursue its objectives, in concert with its NATO allies, trying to reach as wide a measure of agreement as possible on disarmament, taking advantage of the agreement that was reached in Moscow on the partial nuclear test ban treaty.

We will stress at the Geneva meeting, as I indicated at the Paris meeting, the importance we attach to the proposal for the establishment of control posts on each side of the Iron Curtain as a means of reducing the risks of surprise attack. This matter was given attention by ministers attending the NATO meeting, and between now and the disarmament meeting to be held in January, there will be further consideration of some practical aspects of the proposal for the establishment of control posts and inspection teams on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

I wish to say that there is no justification for the view, so widely stated in the newspapers, about the state of disunity in NATO. Each member of the Organization took occasion at this last meeting to affirm his country's belief and confidence in the integrity and the purposes of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There were no exceptions to this reaffirmation of confidence in the purposes of the alliance.

There are differences, of course, as to method, but this is inevitable in any alliance that is predicated upon the membership of nation states that are free. But there can be no doubt that NATO represents a group of nations dedicated to the fundamental basis of the Organization, which they recognize as an essential instrument for the preservation of peace, and for their defence in the light of the situation that prevails in the world at the present time.

I think I properly characterize this meeting by saying that the relative tranquillity that has existed in the world for the last 12 months gave the foreign ministers in attendance an opportunity to carefully evaluate their relations with the East, with the Soviet Union. This involved a consideration of commercial policies. It involved a consideration of the use and the terms of credit that should be extended to Communist countries in trade in non-strategic goods. It also involved an appreciation of the results of some of the activities of the United Nations that are of concern to NATO.