

that the United States and Soviet Governments have agreed to exchange views on the formulation of the agenda and on other important procedural questions. We await with close interest the outcome of this preliminary planning. We are seeking to promote its success.

The United Nations, the Colombo Plan, NATO, and, of course, the Commonwealth -- these are four international associations to which we belong. That they overlap in membership, that they differ in scope and purpose, is merely a sign of the times, and a sign that Canada's international interests are widespread and must be harmonized. Our membership in NATO, for example, is of course entirely consistent with our other associations; indeed NATO's part in resisting the Soviet challenge to free institutions in Europe and elsewhere has helped to strengthen the United Nations. Conversely, currents of thought circulating in the United Nations inevitably have their impact in NATO.

The term "interdependence" has been widely used in recent months. It has been applied to the Atlantic Alliance, and there is of course no doubt that the nations of that alliance are interdependent. But I wonder if there is not a risk in giving that term a restrictive definition. Dare we delude ourselves in this nuclear age that to a degree interdependence is anything other than global?

In the declaration of NATO issued on December 19, 1957, it was proclaimed to the world: "We are prepared to examine any proposal, from whatever source, for general or partial disarmament". Canada, at Paris, had no small part in fashioning that attitude. Your Government is probing for and seeking in many national capitals the ways and means in preparing for a Summit Meeting or meetings which would hold some promise of attaining some agreement on some points and thus pave the way for progressive solution of remaining critical problems and the steady building up of understanding and trust. The alternative to that policy might be a nuclear war - in which the stake would be the survival of our democratic civilization -- indeed, the survival of mankind.