

like to believe that these visits re-emphasize our Canadian commitments to the highest moral and political standards of international goodwill, and to a continuation of that participation in the affairs of the world which has given Canada an international status far beyond our numbers and even beyond the level of our physical and monetary contributions of recent years.

During my absence I have, of course, been in continual communication with the Cabinet here at home. I know that we still have problems of our own on the domestic front. It is here that my first responsibility lies. Every possible resource of the Government is being used to combat the national problems and individual hardships resulting from the world-wide economic slow-down.

It is a matter of great personal regret to me that some of these effects are still with us at this time. To inject a personal note, may I say my thoughts are very much with each of you, my fellow Canadians. I pray that the joys of Christmas may be yours in full measure; that the spirit of the blessed season be with you to comfort those in sorrow; to ease the cares of those who are sick; to lighten the burden of those in distress . . . And for the New Year, my hopes are high and my determination firm that, in so far as it may be in my power, the days ahead will bring to each of you peace, prosperity and great happiness.



THE PRIME MINISTER IN GERMANY

Mr. Diefenbaker in conversation with, left to right, an interpreter, Chancellor Adenauer and on extreme right, Dr. Gerstenmaier, President of the Bundestag (Lower House) at a dinner given in Bonn by Mr. Escott Reid, the Canadian Ambassador to Germany.