

likelihood that the resolution which the United States will be introducing will be vetoed. The issue will then likely be carried to the floor of the General Assembly.

In connection with the suggestion I made last evening that a group of nations might be given the opportunity of making an "on-site" inspection in Cuba, lest there be any doubt about my meaning in that connection, I was not, of course, casting any doubts on the facts of the situation as outlined by the President of the United States in his television address. The Government had been informed of and it believes that there is ample evidence that bases and equipment for the launching of offensive weapons have been constructed in Cuba and exist in sufficient quantities to threaten the security of this Hemisphere.

The purpose I had in mind in suggesting a United Nations "on-site" inspection was to be ready to put in motion steps which could be taken in the United Nations General Assembly in the event of a Soviet veto, or if the Soviet Union denies the existence in Cuba of offensive ballistic-missile bases. The suggestion I made was not intended to compete with any proposal of the United States that might be placed before the Assembly, but rather to supplement it by providing a way in which the United Nations could begin the heavy task of exercising its primary responsibility in respect of the maintenance of international peace and security. Further moves, if any, will have to depend on the way the situation develops.

*On October 25, the Prime Minister returned to the Cuban crisis with the following statement:*

. . . I think I should refer to President Kennedy's statement on Monday night that Russian action in placing missiles and bombers in Cuba threatens this continent and Central and South America. Indeed, the Soviet Union by its action has reached out across the Atlantic to challenge the right of free men to live in peace in this Hemisphere.

I think Canadians are in general agreement that these offensive weapons, located so contiguously to our continent, are a direct and immediate menace to Canada. Furthermore, they are a serious menace to the deterrent-strategic strength of the whole Western Alliance on which our security is founded. The result is that a threat is posed not only to this continent but to the NATO Alliance as a whole, and indeed to all the free world, whose security depends to such an extent upon the strategic strength of the United States.

The United States Government, as I have said on an earlier occasion, informed us of the facts of the situation and of the course of action proposed to be taken some few hours before President Kennedy made his announcement.

The Government commenced immediately to consider the measures that the Canadian Government and Canadian forces should take in order to be ready to deal with whatever eventualities would arise from this action. So that the attitude of the Government will be clearly understood — and again I am asking for the support of the House as a whole in this connection — we intend to support the United States and our other allies in this situation.