

To meet the Soviet challenge demands the maintenance of strong defences while the search goes on for effective disarmament agreement. Canada considers that the centre of the defensive system of the Western nations must continue to be the NATO alliance, with NORAD being maintained on this continent as part of the responsibilities of the alliance.

The West must resist tendencies toward disunity, whether inspired by Communist tactics or by conflicts of interest among friends and allies. The pathway to unity lies in persistent and co-ordinated consultation. It lies, too, in ensuring that the direction of Western affairs is not concentrated in the hands of a limited number of major powers.

Canadians believe that whatever the discouragement and frustrations may be, the Western nations must continue their quest for an agreement on disarmament, without lowering their guard until it is achieved.

The negotiations for a treaty on nuclear tests have made progress that four or five years ago would have been unthinkable. The discontinuance of nuclear tests could be a long first step towards disarmament.

It is of the utmost importance that the West should not brand the Soviet proposals as nothing but a facade of propaganda. We must aim for the achievement of balanced concessions for neither side can afford to agree on measures which will result in military disadvantage to itself.

Paramount Task

Lifting the burden of hunger, poverty and ignorance which lies heavy on the backs of hundreds of millions of people in the under-developed countries of the world may well be the greatest task of this decade. Whatever we may be able to do about the other urgent issues which face our world, peace and prosperity for the West are not likely to endure long if three-quarters of the world's population must struggle to achieve even a minimum standard of living.

Empty stomachs cannot be fed by political theories or political institutions.

One of the great needs of the less-developed countries is food for the expanding populations. Every day another 250,000 hungry new mouths are born into the world, the majority of them in countries whose populations have already outstripped local food supplies. Yet, on the other side of the picture we see the spectacle familiar to Americans and Canadians of surplus food which cannot be sold at a reasonable rate of return to the producer.