

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY

A speech by Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, on July 9, 1959, in the House of Commons.

The first subject I plan to discuss is the Geneva Conference. I am aware that Canadians have been following with close attention the course of the Foreign Ministers' discussions in Geneva. As hon. members know, the Foreign Ministers' Conference adjourned on June 20 and will resume its sittings next Monday, July 13. It is disappointing that no agreement was reached during the six weeks of negotiations, but at the same time one should not underrate the benefits of the discussions which took place. The attitudes of both sides have been clarified, and there are some common elements in the proposals advanced on the Berlin issue which might possibly lead to progress.

This has been a period of re-examination for the West, both with respect to the attitude to be adopted in further discussions and with respect to the question as to whether the present discussions might usefully lead to a summit meeting. The United Kingdom, the United States and France, and the Western negotiating powers, together with the Federal Republic of Germany, are examining the records of the discussion and are consulting to determine how best to proceed in the hope of making some progress. In addition--and this is important to Canada--to participation in consultations with the negotiating powers which are taking place in the NATO Council, in which consultations, of course, Canada is at all times represented, the Canadian Government will shortly have the opportunity of discussing these matters with the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Christian Herter. As I announced in the House yesterday, Mr. Herter will be here on Saturday.

It is to be hoped that during the period of recess of the Foreign Ministers' Conference the Soviet leaders will come to realize that nothing is to be gained by an attitude of challenge and impatience. If progress is to be made it will be necessary for the East-West talks to be conducted in an atmosphere free of implied threats or peremptory demands.