

of flexibility which would permit the Western powers to advance concrete proposals of their own without always being caught off balance by an interminable series of Russian initiatives by means of which the Soviet Union creates the illusion that it has a monopoly on peaceful intentions. Although it is difficult, I know, to accord a serious reception to these Russian proposals which follow one on another in bewildering succession, surely there is room for firmness that would stop short of rigidity -- a firmness that would occasionally permit us to say "Yes - provided that" instead of automatically "No - unless".

I am not at liberty to discuss the details of the kind of proposals which Canada has already advanced. These our Prime Minister and I will discuss the day after tomorrow with the United Kingdom Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary when they visit Ottawa. To them we will, however, say, as I say to you now, that while we recognize the necessity to study carefully how best to meet any eventuality, it is Canada's sincere hope and it will be Canada's endeavour that the extremes which must be envisaged in such planning for contingencies will be avoided. We do not regard flexibility and firmness as incompatible concepts and I am confident that our British visitors will fully share the Canadian point of view. We all must applaud Mr. Macmillan's wisdom and strength in these anxious days. Surely the great accomplishment of his visit to Moscow was the declaration to which both sides subscribed, in which they avowed their determination to settle all disputes by negotiation. In the nuclear age, there is no other way.

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