

some hope of progress. This preparatory work, in my opinion, can best be done by patient and painstaking negotiations carried on with the minimum of publicity through ordinary diplomatic channels. It is a time for the pick and shovel work of diplomacy, and this is always best done behind the scenes.

In these treacherous times we are, as I have already said, bound to maintain our defences. But to regard this as an end in itself would be futile and possibly fatal. We shall never find peace and security by merely continuing the ever more expensive and perilous contest of arms. The mounting costs of nuclear armament could put the wealthiest nations into bankruptcy, and thus provide a bed for the seeds of communism. No fair-minded person could say that we are guilty of such a hopeless and sterile strategy. Honestly and steadfastly we have worked for peace through a workable system of disarmament in which the security of all the participants is not jeopardized. In spite of the discouragement that we have suffered from the Soviet decision to boycott the new Disarmament Commission of twenty-five nations established last autumn by the United Nations, we have no intention of giving up that endeavour. We shall knock on every door that could conceivably lead the world safely away from international tension and stalemate. The stake is the very survival of our civilization - indeed it could be the survival of mankind.

We are earnestly seeking discussions with other nations to find ways and means of resuming serious and constructive negotiations on disarmament between East and West. We seek to set an example to others in this endeavour by not allowing our efforts to be hampered by narrowness, stubbornness, or consideration of mere national prestige. In Mr. Diefenbaker's letter to Premier Bulganin, our Prime Minister reiterated an offer which he had made on behalf of the Canadian Government last summer - that in the context of a disarmament agreement we would be willing to open all or part of Canada to aerial and ground inspection on a basis of reciprocity. The Western disarmament proposals of last August included a reference to the possibility of a system of inspection in the Arctic regions which lie between us and our Russian neighbours to the North.

In this field of disarmament, it would be wrong and dangerous to pretend that there are not enormous difficulties in the way. On the other hand, there are grounds for hope that mutual interest in survival can provide a basis for an agreement with the Russians which does not depend on faith alone but on the self-interest of both sides to maintain it. This is the role of a young, vigorous and peace-loving country like our own - to sound a note of confidence and hope in times which breed pessimism and fear, ill-will and enmity in the international sphere.

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