

At the beginning of that year we had what the Soviet Union Foreign Minister has called the Caribbean affair or the situation in Cuba, and the actions taken by the United States with regard to the installation on the island of Cuba of Soviet offensive nuclear weapons in October 1962. Since that time, other matters of interest have taken place. We have the partial nuclear test ban treaty, which was agreed to by the foreign ministers of the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom in August. This partial test ban treaty has since been supported by 107 nations or more. Then there was the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union with regard to the banning of weapons of mass destruction in outer space.

These are matters of great significance in relation to the general problems that face us at the present time. Perhaps in themselves they do not represent the full achievement which is desirable but certainly, as demonstrations of the *détente* that exists, they must not be discounted.

Advantage was taken at this meeting, and against this background, to discuss the general state of East-West relations. It was well that this should be done, because at this meeting there were a number of new representatives of governments. Since the previous ministerial meeting there had come into office some new heads of government, including a new Prime Minister in the United Kingdom, a new Chancellor of West Germany, a new President in the United States and a new Prime Minister in Italy. In addition to these heads of government, there were at the NATO table a number of new foreign ministers, including of course the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, Mr. Butler. . . .

We agreed at the ministerial meeting to take advantage of every opportunity to extend the area of agreement with the Soviet Union. We were not all agreed as to the nature of the period of tranquillity which exists and as to whether it is in fact a *détente*. I am impressed by the suggestion that there is a difference between a *détente* and a state of actual peace; and, bearing in mind that refinement, it must be obvious that there is today a *détente* between East and West. We must take advantage of this to further reduce the risks of conflict between the Soviet Union and the Western nations. . . .

There are a number of reasons for the existence of this *détente*. . . . We believe there are a number of contributing factors in this developing situation. I took occasion then to express the view that commercial, cultural and scientific contacts could be important in bringing about a further harmonization between East and West.

While the situation of *détente* exists, it is true that, at the same time, the major political problems that divide East and West remain unresolved. There is still a divided Germany. There is still a divided Berlin. There are the problems centered in Indochina, particularly in Vietnam and in Laos, and the situation developing in Cambodia. There continue to be problems in the Middle East, and there are, of course, problems in the Commonwealth country of Malaysia and the attitude toward that country adopted by Indonesia, notably by the President