

It is our firm conviction that neighbours should live in good neighbourliness and that with a mutual desire, it is fully possible to achieve this.

We hope, Mr. Prime Minister, that the considerations expressed in this letter will be attentively examined by you and your colleagues in the Government. We, on our part, are prepared to examine any considerations which the Government of Canada may wish to put forward with the aim of improving the international situation as a whole as well as for bettering direct relations between our countries.

With sincere respects,

N. Bulganin

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Ottawa,

January 18, 1958.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Government of Canada has given thoughtful attention to the contents of your letter of December 13, 1957 in which you set forth your views on the causes of international tension and offer a number of proposals for the easing of the international situation and for the development of confidence between states.

You deal at length in your letter with the activities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and you allege that measures are being taken by that organization to prepare for nuclear war and that an artificially fanned military hysteria is propagated in Western countries. It is also suggested that current NATO policies will lead to the intensification of the cold war. I do not wish to engage in extended arguments over NATO policies since the purely defensive nature of NATO has been made clear on many occasions. These charges cannot go entirely unanswered, however, and the Canadian Government wishes to emphasize that the organization has no aggressive intentions whatsoever. If it had, Canada would dissociate itself from it immediately, since such intentions would be neither in the letter nor the spirit of the North Atlantic Treaty. As your letter arrived shortly before the NATO Council meeting in which heads of government participated, I am sure that you have given careful attention to the Declaration and Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the session. In my opinion, the Declaration and Communiqué comprise an adequate response to the various accusations which you have made against the North Atlantic Alliance.

Perhaps it may be helpful in understanding our position if I supplement these NATO documents with an outline of the Canadian attitude towards NATO. As I said in the House of Commons on December 21 last the recent NATO meeting has made a substantial contribution to the cause of peace, not only by reaffirming the purely defensive character of the Alliance, but by leaving the door open to meaningful disarmament negotiations. I pointed out in regard to the NATO heads of