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HANDS ACROSS THE PACIFIC

The following joint statement was issued by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker and Prime Minister Ikeda of Japan on October 31, at the conclusion of the visit of Mr. Diefenbaker to Japan:

"The Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker..., Prime Minister of Canada, accompanied by Mrs. Diefenbaker, visited Japan from October 27 to October 31, 1961, at the invitation of the Government of Japan.

"Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, received them in audience on October 27. During their stay in Japan they visited the Diet of Japan and participated in various other functions planned for them, including visits to Osaka, Kyoto and Nara.

"Prime Minister Ikeda expressed his gratitude for the hospitality extended to him during his visit to Canada last June. In response Prime Minister Diefenbaker conveyed his deep appreciation of the warmth and spontaneity of the welcome accorded him in Japan.

"The Prime Ministers held discussions on October 27, 28 and 31. They exchanged views on the international situation, including Germany and Berlin, on which they found a common appreciation of the major elements of the problem. They discussed the general situation in the Far East, with particular reference to China and to recent developments in the countries of Southeast Asia. They reviewed international economic developments and parti-

cularly regional groupings, including the European Economic Community and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

DENUNCIATION OF SOVIET TESTS

"The Prime Ministers joined in unqualified condemnation of the Soviet attitude and actions on nuclear testing. They recalled the overwhelming support recently given in the United Nations General Assembly for a solemn appeal to the Soviet Government to desist from its threatened intention to detonate a 50-megaton nuclear explosion. They emphatically deplored the Soviet Government's continuing defiance of world opinion in this regard. They agreed that international tension would be seriously aggravated and the future health and safety of the peoples of the world endangered if these unjustified experiments were continued.

"The Prime Ministers agreed to continue to urge in the United Nations and elsewhere the need for immediate cessation of all nuclear test explosions and for early resumption of negotiations for a treaty which would prohibit such tests permanently through an effective system of international inspection. They were also fully agreed on the urgency of resuming negotiations for securing an international agreement on general and complete disarmament.

"The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their desire for continued close co-operation between the Japanese and Canadian delegates at the United Nations General

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