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REPORT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

A CBC broadcast by Mr. Diefenbaker, December 21, 1958, on his visit to Europe, Asia and Australasia.

My fellow Canadians,

As you know, I have recently returned from an extended series of meetings with the heads-of-state and others in Western Europe and Asia. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss and assess the responsibilities which Canada has assumed within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty alliance and the Commonwealth of Nations for the maintenance of world peace and the advancement of the universal brotherhood of mankind.

Tonight I report to you on these discussions, without trespassing on the rights of Parliament to hear my report in detail. In these last few weeks, I have had the honour to speak and listen, on your behalf, to many eminent world leaders, as well as to Canada's Ambassadors and High Commissioners and other Canadians abroad.

In all these talks, I feel sure that substantial progress was made towards our individual and mutual objectives.

Je vous fais part ce soir de ces discussions, sans restreindre pour autant le droit qu'a le Parlement d'entendre, de ma bouche, un compte rendu détaillé de mon voyage. Au cours des quelques dernières semaines j'ai eu l'honneur de m'entretenir, en votre nom, avec les dirigeants de divers Etats, ainsi qu'avec des ambassadeurs et haut commissaires du Canada et d'autres Canadiens se trouvant à l'étranger.

Je suis sûr que, dans tous ces entretiens, nous avons progressé vers nos objectifs tant mutuels que particuliers.

There is no substitute for personal experience - for the "feel" of places and peoples that comes with even a moment's participation in their way of life. My visit to the lands of Asia and of the Commonwealth was made with fresh eyes eager to see, to learn, to absorb and to determine for myself the spirit emerging in those societies.