

been truly said that there is now no alternative to negotiation and no alternative to peace. War is no longer a scourge but the instrument of annihilation.

"This Convention, with such wide participation, is a demonstration that there has been some reduction in international tension in the past few years, for it is improbable that the countries of Eastern Europe would have been so widely represented at any similar congress held as recently as six years ago.

"Does not this raise the hope that, although there are no spectacular or magic solutions of world problems, a gradual improvement in the international climate may be attained providing that there is a continuing exchange of views and visits between the leaders and people of East and West.

"I believe that it has been demonstrated that the gulf between the two ideologies can be bridged, for in meeting the problems of health and science there is hope that the gap can be narrowed in the solution of larger and more far-reaching world issues, providing the free world does not weary in negotiation.

"I believe that the gap must be narrowed, and that consultation and discussion must take place in order to achieve settlement of international issues which, in creating tension, could spark a conflict that would be disastrous for all mankind.

"It is in this spirit that Canadians have agreed to certain reciprocal exchanges of visitors between this country and countries of Eastern Europe.

"I believe that a more stable foundation for peace will be laid when there will be lesser barriers to the movement of people across national boundaries, and fewer unjustifiable hindrances to the free flow of ideas and information to all parts of the world.

"I have spoken of the importance of negotiation, and am encouraged by the signs of progress at Geneva, where the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, the United States, France and the U.S.S.R. have resumed their discussions.

CONTINUING EFFORT

"The Canadian Government has repeatedly emphasized the importance of continuing negotiations between East and West, and of the value of the most searching joint examination by East and West of major issues which separate them, providing that no solution will be acceptable which jeopardizes the freedom of the people of West Berlin, or forecloses ultimate German reunification.

"It is probable that the Geneva discussions will lead the way to a desirable meeting at the level of heads of government, although there should be no misapprehension that a summit meeting would be a speedy process leading to immediate and far-reaching settlements

of differences which encompass the fabric of our political and economic life.

"In the British House of Commons recently Prime Minister Macmillan, in speaking of a summit meeting, expressed a few words of caution which I wish firmly to endorse. He said:

'The journey which we have to undertake in this pilgrimage is likely to be a long one and it will require patience as well as faith.'

VITAL TASK

"Canada has every reason to be particularly interested in the work of paediatrics. Canada is a young country in years and in population being a Confederation for less than 100 years. With one-third of its population (or 5,661,800 persons) under 15 years of age Canada's birth-rate is foremost among those of the major industrial nations of the world, and the care of children is the most vital of its national tasks.

"In Canada direct responsibility for health services rests with provincial and local governments, assisted by national and local voluntary agencies. The Federal Government's activities are constitutionally confined to special programmes of a nation-wide nature and to the provision of assistance to the provinces. These programmes take many forms, the most important of which is a programme of national hospital insurance finally inaugurated in the last two years and in which eight of the ten provinces are now co-operating with the National Government.

"That Canada has shared with other countries of the world in the conquest of many of the ancient scourges of mankind is well known. Sir Frederick Banting and Dr. Charles Best made the epochal discovery of insulin the treatment of diabetes and Canada made a significant contribution to the development of the vaccine for poliomyelitis.

"Much more remains to be done. The need for further research in the field of diseases of children was given recognition in the establishment by the Parliament of Canada during the last month of the *Queen Elizabeth II Canadian Research Fund to Aid in Research on the Diseases of Children* in commemoration of the visit of Her Majesty, The Queen of Canada. This fund will provide an additional assistance to a half million dollars provided by Parliament during the present fiscal year under the National Health Grants programme for research related to diseases of children.

"The purpose of the Queen's Fund will be to provide financial aid to institutions and individuals in Canada engaged in research in children's diseases. I need only mention the problems of leukemia and mental retardation in children, and neo-natal deaths, to indicate something of the magnitude of the problem.

"The Fund is intended, primarily, as a Canadian enterprise, but I need hardly add

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