

Institutional and personal relations between these two countries are so varied and so intertwined that problems are bound to be manifold, and some conflict of interest cannot be avoided in intercourse between two nations. But without continuous communication in an effort to find solutions that will satisfy the interests of the United States and Canada, no tolerable solutions will be found. It has therefore been a primary objective of government policy to see to it that a genuine dialogue was resumed at all levels between our two countries. This process was begun at Hyannis Port and has been maintained ever since through a variety of channels. It is our intention that it should be continued uninterrupted, however difficult the problems may seem, and I believe it was not without significance that the Canadian Prime Minister was among the first, along with the President of France, to be received by the new President of the United States on Monday last.

At this meeting with President Johnson, which I attended, it was clearly evident that the President regards the relations between our two countries as important, and I can say it was quite evident that he will derive considerable satisfaction from continuous contacts with the Prime Minister of Canada.

East-West Relations

In assessing the international atmosphere as a whole, which is one of the things I wish to do in this statement, the state of relations between the Communists and the rest of us is of course basic. Some other problems, particularly that of assisting the peoples of the less-developed countries to advance into full participation in mankind's heritage of dignity, freedom and welfare, are no less difficult and, in the long run, even more important, but it is relations with the Communist countries that have involved the risk of war and have demanded the diversion to defence of vast resources that, in a more settled world, could be used for the purposes of instruction and well-being.

It is, therefore, with some sense of satisfaction that one can compare the general international situation today with what it was a year ago. At that time, the world stood on the very brink of nuclear war as the result of a sudden, secret deployment of Soviet strategic missiles in Cuba. We now know...that a year ago...the nations looked for the first time right down into the pit of nuclear fire. That Soviet clandestine move produced the most dangerous crisis of the post-war period; but it was one that, I believe, may mark a new chapter in East-West relations. Happily, that situation was resolved in a way which not only avoided open conflict but opened up new avenues for reducing tensions. It was typical of the late President of the United States that at the peak of that crisis he had the foresight to speak of peace.

But the major political problems of the world remain, in Germany, in Indochina, in Cuba. The problem of Berlin access is with us still, as recent tense moments on the Autobahn have reminded us. These and other problems caused by Stalin's division of Germany and Europe remain as grave sources of tension in the world, potentially as dangerous as Cuba. So when I speak of satisfaction at the improvement in the world political situation during the past year, I do not suggest that there are any grounds for complacency. Critical problems in adjusting relations between the Communist and the non-Communist worlds remain. Of course,