



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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## THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

Excerpt from an Address by Prime Minister  
John G. Diefenbaker to The Canadian Press,  
Toronto, April 16, 1958

I want now to refer, for a few minutes, to the international situation.

We can put too much importance on intercontinental missiles without realizing at the same time the impact of those intercontinental missives which are today being received from the U.S.S.R. by leaders of the free world.

We have not discharged our responsibilities. We have allowed the U.S.S.R. in recent months and years to achieve an authority over the hearts and souls of men by our failure to meet in an imaginative way the challenge of those "missives" sent by the U.S.S.R. And I know we all say that it is hypocritical for Mr. Khrushchev to quote the opinion of more than 9,200 scientists of 44 nations, to make his appeal to the conscience of humanity, emphasizing the hazards of "fall-out" as a result of the testing of nuclear weapons. But it is no answer to those suggestions to label everything that is advanced by the U.S.S.R. as simple propaganda.

The free world must, while maintaining its strength and unity, meet with imaginative statements this challenge. My hope is that the nations of the free world will announce in the immediate future their desire and willingness to discontinue nuclear tests, except for the application of known explosive techniques to peaceful purposes, provided that there is suitable international supervision.

Dr. Willard Libby, one of the Commissioners of the U.S.A.E.C., stated before a Congressional Committee last month that there were a number of possible peaceful uses of nuclear explosions which should not be overlooked. He cited in particular the possibility, based upon a subterranean explosion staged by the U.S., that nuclear explosions could be used to restore the

pressure in depleted oil fields. Other sources have referred to the earth-moving potential of nuclear explosions on projects similar to the construction of the Panama Canal. Although the practical potentialities of nuclear explosions for such purposes have yet to be assessed, it is apparent that there may be a case for international arrangements to supervise or even to organize nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. It is considered that such supervisory or organizational functions would not be incompatible with the functions of the International Atomic Energy Agency as defined in its statute and that the Agency might be the appropriate body to take such explosions within its jurisdiction.

When there is a summit meeting, as I hope there will be if the U.S.S.R. through the preliminary diplomatic discussions shows that it intends to advance or to consider bona fide problems, then I would hope that the Secretary-General of the United Nations would be invited to participate as representative of the interests of the United Nations during any discussions on disarmament.

The preliminary diplomatic discussions which the three Western powers have now agreed to initiate by way of diplomatic discussions with the Russians, April 17th, should provide a test of whether or not the Soviet attitude towards a summit meeting is a genuine desire to achieve results, or is largely designed for propaganda advantage. If the discussions indicate a desire on the part of the U.S.S.R. to achieve results, then Canada is prepared and is willing to take any step short of appeasement which would be conducive to a reduction of world tension, or would in any way facilitate East-West negotiations. Canada, being the nearest neighbour of the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., is prepared to take its full part to facilitate the preparations for an effective summit meeting, or to contribute to the success of the meeting itself. Indeed, Canada would have no objection, in fact would welcome, the holding of that summit meeting here.

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