

- 3 -

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 61/8

Joint Communiqué issued by President Kennedy of the United States and Prime Minister Diefenbaker of Canada, following discussions held May 17, 1961, in Ottawa.

President Kennedy and Prime Minister Diefenbaker stated that they had had a welcome opportunity of renewing the personal contact they established during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington in February and of examining together questions of concern to both their governments. Their discussions covered broad international issues as well as specific Canadian-United States questions.

United Nations

The President and Prime Minister stated their confidence in the United Nations as an organization dedicated to the peaceful settlement of differences and the defence of national and human rights.

Disarmament

They reaffirmed that the goal sought by both countries is a secure world order in which there can be general disarmament under effective controls. They agreed, in particular, that the negotiation of a nuclear test ban treaty with effective provisions for inspection was a basic step in the process of moving towards disarmament.

Defence

The President and Prime Minister examined certain aspects of U.S.-Canadian defence arrangements and the international defence commitments which both countries have assumed, notably in NATO. They expressed the conviction that a strong defence must be maintained until such time as effective disarmament measures can be secured under proper safeguards. They agreed that it is more than every necessary that the strength and unity of NATO be reinforced.

Western Hemisphere

The President and Prime Minister discussed the need for accelerating economic progress and social reform throughout the hemisphere, as well as the need to strengthen the strong hemispheric trend away from dictatorship and towards democracy. They recognized that these objectives are closely related. They were in accord that the alignment of a régime in the Western hemisphere with Communist leadership abroad was a matter for serious concern, threatening as it did the peaceful and democratic evolution of the Latin-American peoples. The Prime Minister assured the President of Canada's continued and increasing interest in inter-American affairs.

Laos

The President and Prime Minister examined the problem of Laos. They reaffirmed the objective of negotiating at Geneva a truly independent and neutral Laos. In this connection they examined the experience of the International Control and Supervisory Commission created by the Geneva Accords of 1954. They agreed that

the development of and general support for effective control machinery represented a key element in a settlement of the Laos situation and an essential ingredient in achieving peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

OECD

Noting that both countries are now members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and are participating in the Development Assistance Group, the President and Prime Minister examined the continuing responsibilities of their countries to assist under-developed nations. Both countries have had active programmes of economic assistance to under-developed nations for many years. It was agreed that the new machinery would enable the policies and contributions of the two countries in this field to be more closely related than in the past.

Trade

The President and Prime Minister noted the efforts which their two governments had been making in the tariff negotiations in Geneva to work out satisfactory trading relations with the European Economic Community and exchanged views on how this broad objective of importance to both countries can best be achieved. They emphasized the interest of both countries in promoting employment and a general expansion of world trade.

To banish the scourge of war, to improve the human lot, to defend and to enlarge the area of freedom, to assist peoples less privileged than our own -- these are aims that bind together Canada and the United States and which, with other allies and friends, our two countries will, jointly and steadfastly, pursue.



Western Hemisphere

The President and Prime Minister discussed the need for accelerating economic progress and social reform throughout the hemisphere, as well as the need to strengthen the strong hemisphere trend away from dictatorship and towards democracy. They recognized that these objectives are closely related. They were in accord that the alignment of a régime in the Western Hemisphere with Communist leadership abroad was a matter for serious concern. The Prime Minister assured the President that the President's leadership as it did the peaceful and democratic evolution of the Latin-American peoples. The Prime Minister assured the President of Canada's continued and increasing interest in inter-American affairs.

Laos

The President and Prime Minister examined the problem of Laos. They reaffirmed the objective of negotiating at Geneva a truly independent and neutral Laos. In this connection they examined the experience of the International Control and Supervision Commission created by the Geneva Accords of 1954. They agreed that