



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 60/22

AFTER THE SUMMIT COLLAPSE

An address broadcast by Prime Minister Diefenbaker on May 19, 1960.

... Why did Khrushchov destroy the hopes of mankind in the summit meeting? Was it, as he would have the world believe, because of the American aircraft over Russia? Yesterday, in the course of his press conference, he gave himself away when he revealed that this incident was only an excuse, for he said he intended to speak to the President about such flights when in the United States last September. As he said:

"I almost opened my mouth to speak of U.S. intelligence flights over Russia but the atmosphere was so convivial that I thought: Why raise this matter with this friend then?"

He has stated on another occasion that he overruled the wish of the military authorities to bring down an intruding plane.

Khrushchov's Motive.

This removes any suggestion that the attitude he took at the conference was dictated because of the recent event. It would seem to indicate that he had decided some time ago to wreck the conference because he had found out that the United States, France and Britain would not meet his wishes if doing so meant sacrificing the entire population of West Berlin. He simply did not want the conference to take place even though he had asked for it for more than two years.

It would appear that he has been having difficulties with the military authorities at home and was also being opposed by the Communist Chinese in his expressed wish to follow a more peaceful policy. It is worth noting that Peking's leaders have been uttering some very frightening statements recently. Their Defence Minister stated that "hundreds of millions strong can overwhelm the enemy in the flame of an all-out people's war".

There has been concern expressed about the way the United States has handled the aircraft matter. This is not the time to enter into criticisms or recriminations of our friends, but I think it is important that we of the free world should recall the Soviet provocations of the past - its breaking of pledges; its organized espionage which Canadians have such good reason to recall; its armed intervention in the affairs of other countries, and its continuing enslavement of entire nationalities.

Arms Inspection Rejected.

These facts speak for themselves. The frightening and sinister cold war, which may now be resumed, has been the traditional Soviet instrument of internal-political control of Russia and its enslaved populations. The free world has long suffered, and the Soviet has rejected, by excuses and delays, an effective system of international armament inspection which they must know is the only possible basis of world disarmament.

Unity is the only hope of survival for the free world. Anything that is said or done at this time by any of us, as nations or individuals, which will weaken that unity will be a service to the U.S.S.R.

Unity to the Western world has built the great defensive alliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization without which Soviet aggression and domination would have pressed forward to overwhelm the free peoples of Europe and America.

Complacency Destroyed.

The West has been shaken from whatever complacency may have been developing in the minds of some people about the ruthlessness of the methods and the reality of the objectives of Communist strategy in world affairs. Their ultimate and declared aim is world domination. It must now be clear to all how suddenly the proffered handshake can become the shaking fist; how quickly the smile of professed friendship can become the scowl of terrible hatred.

We must not now give way to fear or panic. The need of the hour is cool heads, calm decisions and the determination to maintain our defences against aggression, while losing no opportunity to bring about peace through negotiation.

Defence is costly and expenditures must be carefully watched to assure the highest returns. While much public emphasis in the press and Parliament has been given to the development of the "Bomarc", how many Canadians realize that the amount that will be spent on the "Bomarc", if and when proceeded with, will be a total of \$15 million in three years, or, to put it another way, 35 cents out of every \$100 of defence expenditure.

... Yesterday, in the House of Commons, it was heartwarming to have the essential unity of Canadians expressed by all parties, when I gave the views of the Government of Canada on the situation resulting from the break-up of the summit conference. Although disappointed, the Canadian Government will continue to press for disarmament, while maintaining our defences until there is adequate inspection. We shall continue to give leadership to the ending of nuclear tests. We shall continue to press for negotiation instead of force in the settlement of international difficulties. Until these aims are attained our defences must be maintained.

While there are some who contend that we should provide our defence by ourselves, that is impossible for any nation in the free world.

Now I shall say something of the Prime Ministers' Conference in London, where eleven leaders of one-fourth of the world's population met in family conference.

Race Discrimination Condemned.

Much has been said regarding the question of South Africa and the policy of apartheid which has been in effect since 1948. Through the years I have taken a strong stand against racial discrimination. Indeed, I said long ago that the Indian population of Canada ought to have a representative in Parliament and should have the vote. After the present Government assumed office the Indian population was given its first representative in Parliament when James Gladstone was appointed a member of the Senate of Canada. And at the present session the Government brought in legislation which will, for the first time, give all Indians the vote in Canada without in any way taking away any of their rights.

I abhor discrimination and always have. As I said in the House of Commons several weeks ago, no nation can win a race war. The equality of man, whatever his race and colour is a principle that must be accepted. This is so because the brotherhood of man denies any other view, and because Communism is advanced whenever Christians allow themselves to practice discrimination.

Before the Conference several of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers, including Mr. Macmillan, Mr. Menzies, and Mr. Nash (the latter the leader of a Socialist Government), took a strong stand, which was also my view, against having the subject discussed formally or placed on the agenda of the Conference. To have done this would have been to bring about a departure from a principle that has always been accepted that the affairs of any one country are not discussed officially at Prime Ministers' Conferences by the other member countries.

The Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference met, and all of its representatives - of various colours and races - unanimously agreed that this was the proper and only course to take.

Dignified Restraint.

Mr. Nehru, President Ayub Khan of Pakistan, Tunku Rahman of Malaya, the Minister of Justice of Ceylon and Dr. Nkrumah of Ghana discussed this matter informally with the representative of South Africa with dignity and restraint, and out of the Conference came a unanimous -- and I emphasize unanimous -- expression of view by all the countries that the Commonwealth, being multi-racial, requires "the need to ensure good relations between all member states and people of the Commonwealth".

In an informal meeting, I told Mr. Louw, that Canadians repudiated the South African policy as a denial of the principle that human dignity and the worth of the individual, whatever his race or colour, must be respected.

The Government of South Africa indicated that a referendum later this year will be held as to whether South Africa should be a republic, and if having so decided it wishes to remain a member of the Commonwealth it will then have to ask and will require the consent of all Commonwealth Governments.

I believe that the unanimous acceptance of the terms of the official communiqué is convincing evidence of the fact that the day is not far distant when the acceptance by members of the Commonwealth of certain norms or basic principles of equality of all races, colours and creeds will be generally accepted.

The course I followed is what I believed to be right in spite of honest and well-intentioned criticism with which it was met and that course was unanimously upheld at the Conference by all the countries, whatever their colour.

In recent years Asian countries have been receiving aid and assistance under the Colombo Plan to raise their standards. Africa is the most underdeveloped region of the world and I feel that it is urgent and compelling that action be taken to provide assistance to the new countries of Africa as they become free and independent.

The Conference showed that each of the members, in a spirit of understanding, was conscious of, and concerned with, the welfare of all members....