



CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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### RETREAT FROM THE SUMMIT

A statement to the House of Commons on  
May 18, 1960, by Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

I think I should say a word at this time regarding the abrupt termination of the summit meeting in Paris. There was an opportunity for progress and improvement at this meeting which had awakened the hopes of millions of people throughout the world. For reasons of his own, reasons which I think all members of this House regard as totally unjustifiable, Chairman Khrushchev has refused to meet with the other participants. By so doing he ended, before the sessions had properly begun, all hopes of achievement at this conference.

Any cause for complaint which the Soviet leader may have felt had been removed by President Eisenhower's assurances on May 16 that over-flights had been stopped and would not be resumed. The President did this even though there was no indication that the Soviet Union was willing to give equal assurances that objectionable activities for which it was responsible would also end.

There have been periods in the past when East-West relations were characterized by sustained acrimony, but recently it had been the expectation of people everywhere in the world that we were moving into a better era where we would solve our problems by reasonable negotiation. I think I express the views of all ... Members of this House when I say that, despite the tragic international drama of yesterday and the developments of the last few days, mankind has not been thrown all the way back into the frightening gloom of the cold war.

The NATO Council will meet tomorrow. The NATO powers have been working and will continue to work toward the establishment of good relations between East and West as a basis for negotiation and settlement. It remains essential that despite the admitted setbacks of the last few days, efforts to make progress toward peace and security must not be abandoned, for the return to cold war will be as detrimental to East and West, as a relaxation will be beneficial to both.

There are only two ways in which our differences can be settled. We in the West believe in negotiation. With the collapse of the summit meeting, I believe it more imperative than ever that negotiations be continued in Geneva on disarmament and on the suspension of nuclear weapons tests.

These events of the last 48 hours have confirmed the need for the Western nations to remain on guard. We are now entering a period of reassessment and re-examination. The roseate hopes of the last few months have certainly been clouded in the last few hours. This is a time, however, for review and reflection, not for provocation or incitement. We should shortly learn the attitude that the Russians will adopt on disarmament, on the nuclear-test talks, on Berlin and on the expansion of trade and cultural contacts. When we learn this we will know whether or not future relations will be determined in the same abrupt manner that was displayed by Chairman Khrushchev in Paris.

The restraint and dignity and high sense of purpose with which the Western leaders attempted to overcome the difficulties which Mr. Khrushchev had put in the way deserve recognition and support. I want to associate the Canadian Government with the views of the three Western leaders as expressed in the communiqué just issued. The words they used were these:

"They regret that these discussions, so important for world peace, could not take place. For their part they remain unshaken in their conviction that the outstanding international questions should be settled not by the use of threat or force but by peaceful means through negotiation. They themselves remain ready to take part in such negotiations at any suitable time in the future."

Speaking again for the Canadian Government, I wish to say that we are ready to do anything we can appropriately do to further this policy as enunciated by the Western leaders.

Finally, however deplorable Mr. Khrushchev's action in Paris, he is mistaken if he thinks he can divide the West by such tactics. On the contrary, his tactics have already served to strengthen the resolve of the Western countries to remain united.