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August 3, 1959
For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D. Montana)

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The President announced this morning that Mr. Khrushchev is to be invited to visit the United States in September. He announced, further, that he himself contemplates a visit to Soviet Russia later in the fall.

Exchanges of this kind are not merely acts of social amiability, however much they may seem so. They are, in fact, acts intimately related to the conduct of foreign policy.

I have no doubt that there are good and sufficient reasons which have prompted the President to make this decision on an exchange of visits of Heads of States. It was, not, I am sure, an easy decision to make. Apart from the implications for policy which are inherent in the exchange, there are also problems of adequate security for the person of the Soviet Premier.

Some members of this body may differ with the President's judgment. They have every right to differ and to express their differences if they are so inclined. Nevertheless, the power to decide, to act in these matters - as has been pointed out on many occasions - resides with the President.

The decision, now having been made by the President, it seems to me essential in this as in other matters of high significance to the peace and well-being of the nation, that

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there be no petty, partisan quibbling. I know that I can speak for Democratic Members of the Senate on that point. For myself, I shall certainly accept the leadership of the President and give his decision my full support.