



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
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A MILESTONE IN ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP

A Statement to the House of Commons on May 27, 1963, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin.

... I now wish to make a report on the Ministerial Meeting of NATO which was held in Ottawa last week. The Minister of National Defence and I had the responsibility of representing the Government of Canada at that meeting. Because of the importance of the subject matter, and in accordance with the convention which attends the delivery of a statement of this importance by a Minister of the Crown, I propose to follow closely what I have prepared for this particular occasion...

The Minister of National Defence and I were afforded an opportunity to meet our opposite numbers both during and before the Ministerial Meeting itself. I had valuable talks in my office in the four days preceding the meeting with Secretary of State Rusk, Foreign Minister Lord Home, and with the Foreign Ministers of France, M. Couve de Murville, and of Germany; Mr. Schroeder - that is, with the leading members and representatives at this meeting of those countries with which we have the most intimate relations. Of course I should add, so that I would not in any way discriminate, that I was privileged to have important and useful talks with the Foreign Ministers of Holland, Belgium, Portugal, Turkey, Greece and Denmark. We were able to review not only matters which would be brought before the meeting, but also questions of bilateral concern. In ordinary circumstances it might have taken many months to establish direct personal contact with these foreign ministers or, in the case of the Minister of National Defence, with ministers of national defence from the 14 countries which attended the Ministerial Meeting along with Canada....

This meeting was timely in another sense. It gave the Government an opportunity to remove the doubts which continued to linger in the minds of our allies concerning the position of Canada with regard to the commitments undertaken on behalf of our armed forces... To that end, the Minister of National Defence took the opportunity on the first day of the conference to set the record straight by confirming to the Council in ministerial session the