



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION · DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS · OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 21 No. 13

March 30, 1966

CONTENTS

France and the Future of NATO	1	National Arts Centre Takes Shape	4
Record Sale of Wood to Britain	2	Highway Safety Stamp	4
Extensive Programme of Development for Indian Communities	3	Commodity Imports	5
Immigration Expansion Abroad	3	New Utility Aircraft	5
Historic Ship for Expo	4	Herring Fishery Potential	5
		Strikes and Lockouts	6

FRANCE AND THE FUTURE OF NATO

In a speech on March 21 to the Rotary Club of Windsor, Ontario, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, discussed as follows a note received a few days earlier by the Canadian Ambassador in Paris setting forth the position of the French Government on the future role of France in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

The French note, received by Canada, states that France intends to withdraw all its remaining land and air forces from NATO commands. Its naval forces had been withdrawn already. France also requires the removal from French territory of all NATO military headquarters, including SHAPE itself. Finally, France requests the withdrawal of foreign forces and installations from France, unless the forces are placed under French operational command, a condition which they themselves recognize is unacceptable.

The implication for Canada is that we shall have to relinquish our air base at Marville and the Air Division headquarters at Metz and to re-locate these forces and facilities elsewhere. Other Canadian forces in Europe are not directly affected.

I know you will recognize immediately the far-reaching nature of the French decision. I use the word "decision" because the French authorities have made it clear that they are not anticipating counter-proposals. The French Government have, in effect, decided to withdraw from integrated military arrangements within NATO. They are evidently prepared to negotiate only on the modalities and timing for giving effect to the French decision. This will apply to the Canadian bases at Metz and Marville.

We have known from President de Gaulle's press conferences over the last few years, and from action which he has already taken to withdraw French naval forces from NATO command, that the French Government was dissatisfied with the military arrangements in NATO.

It was for this reason, among others, that the Canadian Government has indicated on numerous occasions that it was ready to consider modifications in the NATO organization which would be acceptable to all members of the alliance. This was our motive in proposing in 1964 that the NATO Council should undertake a study of the future of the alliance. In this way we hoped to start an exchange of views in which France and our other allies could participate, and in which plans could be discussed for adapting the alliance to the changed circumstances of the 1960s. Although the proposal was endorsed by the ministerial meeting in December 1964, there was subsequent resistance to the study being developed because it was thought by many of our allies that it might tend to precipitate a confrontation with France. In these circumstances, we were not able to pursue the proposal.

Now France has chosen to act on her own, so that, as matters stand, we have no alternative but to take account of France's unilateral decision and concentrate on limiting the adverse consequences to NATO.

REGRETTABLE DECISION

I am bound to say that the Canadian Government regrets the French decision and is not persuaded by the arguments which the French Government has