

The Prime Minister's Visit to France

At the conclusion of the Prime Minister's visit to France, the following joint communiqué was issued in Paris:

At the invitation of General de Gaulle, the President of the French Republic, the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Lester Pearson, paid an official visit to France from January 15 to 17. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada.

General de Gaulle and Mr. Pearson, together with the Prime Minister of France, Mr. Pompidou, and the two foreign ministers, Mr. Paul Martin and Mr. Couve de Murville, held extensive conversations in the characteristic atmosphere of friendship and confidence which exists between the two countries.

Major International Problems

Their discussions involved a full exchange of views on major international problems, as well as on defence questions affecting the two countries. The President and the Prime Minister examined the present state of and likely developments in relations between the West and the U.S.S.R. and other Eastern-European countries, questions which are also under discussion in the Atlantic alliance. They also reviewed developments in Asia and their implications for the West. They considered the situation in the countries of Southeast Asia, where Canada has responsibilities as a member of the International Commissions for Supervision and Control.

Franco-Canadian relations were examined in the spirit of co-operation which guides the two governments. It was recognized on both sides that the mutual desire to increase the existing level of co-operation between the two countries would find effective expression in the regular series of consultations which it is intended to organize.

The successful results of initiatives taken on both sides in the cultural field to develop exchanges in the arts, the humanities and the sciences, as well as in technical co-operation, were noted with satisfaction. In this way, it has been possible to facilitate a *rapprochement* between the two countries, taking into account in particular the fact that a large proportion of Canadian population is of French stock and shares with France a common language and culture. It was the common desire to seek every opportunity which could serve to intensify these exchanges.

Cultural Exchange

In this context, it was noted with great interest on the part of the French that the Canadian Government intended to undertake a programme designed to develop cultural relations between the two countries. The French Government has promised its co-operation, and officials of the two countries will meet to discuss the