

REPORT ON NATO CONFERENCE, PARIS

by

Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker as prepared  
for Radio and Television Broadcast on December  
22, 1957.

My fellow Canadians...once again I thank you for  
granting me these few minutes of your time to bring you the  
Season's Greetings, and to say a few words about the NATO  
Conference in Paris, from which I have just returned. This is  
the season when the thoughts of men and women of goodwill  
everywhere return to the eternal hope of peace on earth in  
our time. For that reason I am happy to report that the  
Conference was, in every sense of the word, a PEACE Conference  
and I believe that substantial and lasting progress was made  
towards that most important of all objectives of the free  
nations of the world.

Mes chers concitoyens...une fois de plus je vous  
remercie de m'accorder ces quelques minutes de votre temps pour  
vous adresser mes meilleurs vœux de Noël et pour vous dire  
quelques mots au sujet de la conférence de l'OTAN à laquelle  
je viens d'assister à Paris. Nous sommes au temps de l'année,  
ou, partout, les hommes et les femmes de bonne volonté nourris-  
sent plus que jamais l'espoir éternel de la paix sur terre et  
notre époque. Aussi suis-je heureux de pouvoir vous dire, au  
début de ces quelques remarques, que la conférence a été,  
vraiment, une conférence de la PAIX; je crois que nous avons  
progressé de façon sensible et durable vers la paix, la plus  
importante de tous les objectifs des nations libres du monde.

It was, I think a happy coincidence that the Conference  
was held just before Christmas. The spirit of the blessed season  
was constantly with us, even as we discussed those grim realities  
which still stand between the Free World and lasting peace.

I am sure that the basic facts of the Paris Meeting  
are well known to most of you but I would like to emphasize  
a few aspects which may have escaped you in these busy days.

I should say at once that not since the Versailles  
Conference of thirty-eight years ago have the heads of so many  
states sat down together to plan for peace. The fifteen nations  
who comprise the North Atlantic Treaty Organization were  
represented by their leaders - an indication in itself of the  
determination of the free democracies of the world to join  
hands and hearts in the common cause of world humanity.

NATO is a defensive alliance of free nations who seek  
not only to preserve peace but also to maintain freedom. The  
objectives of our nations is a world in which both will be  
assured to all men. NATO's objective is not peace at any cost,  
but freedom at any cost, except at the cost of freedom itself.

There was no room for doubt in the minds of those of us  
who sat around the Conference table in Paris that peace in the  
world today depends on preparedness to meet the threat of war to-  
morrow. We who cherish freedom must be ready to defend it at any