

Mr. Anderson



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Mr. S. D. Pierce, Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Trade and Commerce, will represent Canada at the next meeting of the Council of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation which takes place in Paris on July 6.

The scope of the new informal association between the OEEC and Canada has not been defined in precise terms. This flexibility will permit it to take whatever form is likely to lead to the most fruitful results. Mr. Pierce will explore and report on the implications of the new relationship having regard for the desire of the Canadian Government to participate actively in the work of the OEEC in any way that would usefully contribute to the development of this organization as an important agency for economic co-operation between the countries of Western Europe and of North America, and for the solution of common economic problems.

It will be recalled that the idea of an informal association between the OEEC and the United States and Canada was given expression in a statement issued in London on May 18 by the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, France, the United States and Canada. In that statement the Foreign Ministers of France and the United Kingdom after consultation with the Chairman of the OEEC, stated their hope that the OEEC would invite Canada and the United States to establish, on an informal basis, a working relationship with the OEEC. On the day of the publication of the London statement, the Prime Minister said in the House of Commons that the Canadian Government would be glad, if invited, to establish an informal working relationship with the OEEC. Subsequently, Mr. Pearson announced on June 13 that an invitation had been received and accepted.