



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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During his visit to Ottawa, the French Prime Minister, Mr. Pierre Mendès-France, had conversations with the Canadian Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. L. S. St-Laurent, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. L. B. Pearson, the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Walter Harris and other Canadian Ministers and personalities.

Concurrently with the conversations between the Ministers, officials in the French Prime Minister's party met with Canadian officials in conferences at the East Block.

The exchanges of views between the Ministers which covered all fields of common interest were very full and gave to each party a complete knowledge and understanding of the problems with which the other is faced and of the policies proposed for their solution.

The Ministers have expressed their satisfaction at the close correspondence between their respective views. They are in full agreement on the importance of NATO for the strengthening of the bonds between members of the community, and of the Western European Union as a powerful contribution to this end. Looking forward to the early ratification by all parties concerned of the Agreements signed in Paris on October 23 they have considered the openings which these Agreements will offer for the development of international relations, and their improvement to be pursued in the spirit of the United Nations Charter with a view to achieving the ends inscribed in the Charter.

In the field of Franco-Canadian trade relations, it was agreed that discussions would take place at an early date between officials of the two countries.

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