

PUBLIC CEREMONY - TURKEY

Message from the Prime Minister of Turkey

"I have been deeply touched by the message sent to the Turkish nation by His Excellency Mr. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, on the occasion of the delivery to the Turkish Government of the first of 82 Sabrejet aircraft presented by the Government of Canada to our Air Force. I wish in particular to thank the Prime Minister for this very kind gesture.

"In addition, we have been extremely pleased by the words of confidence and appreciation for the Turkish Air Force contained in His Excellency Mr. St. Laurent's message. The Turkish pilots, while defending the Turkish skies in these aircraft which are among the most perfect product of modern technique, would at the same time be defending the independence and freedom of all the NATO nations which are united around the common ideal.

"The aid provided to our country by the Government of Canada which is as valuable materially as it is expressive morally is not confined to the provision of aircraft and equipment to our Air Force. The Canadian Government is also furnishing substantial aid to our land forces and navy. In addition, the pilots whose numbers we hope will increase are being trained and further instructed in the admirable training centres in Canada in an atmosphere of sincere friendship. Furthermore, the Canadian Government is contributing substantially to the construction of various facilities in Turkey under the NATO Common Infrastructure Programme.

"The Turkish nation is aware of all these aids and fully appreciates their due value. We are confident that these aids will bring the Turkish and Canadian nations closer together and that the cooperation between the two nations will develop still further in every field within the very near future.

"In concluding my words I wish to express the pleasure and the honour I feel in conveying the feelings of warm friendship and brotherhood of the Turkish nation towards the Canadian nation."