

## PRELUDE TO NATO

Before leaving for the NATO Ministerial Meeting in Paris recently, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, held a press conference in Ottawa. The following is his opening statement:

...This past week I had a meeting with Mr. David, the Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia. The question of the reunification of families was a matter of some importance from my point of view, and likewise I think that we have laid the basis for the negotiations on the claims that Canadian nationals feel that they have against the Government of Czechoslovakia. We had some fruitful discussions on these two questions, as well as some discussion on important international problems and particularly the question of Vietnam, when I renewed the Canadian position with regard to that question, and our desire for an agreed role for the International Control Commission.

The visit that I had with Mr. David, together with my recent visits to the Soviet Union and Poland, will give me an opportunity of discussing with my colleagues on Tuesday next in Paris the development of East-West relations and the efforts that NATO countries in their individual capacities are seeking to develop. I will be having dinner next Tuesday night with Mr. Rusk in Paris. He is now in Saigon. I will be meeting, as usual at our biannual meeting, with Mr. Couve de Murville on Tuesday afternoon; and I will be meeting Mr. Brandt the new Foreign Minister for West Germany, for the first time in that capacity, on Tuesday morning. I have accepted an invitation from the British Foreign Secretary Mr. Brown, to meet with him in London after the NATO meeting.

### NEW HEADQUARTERS

The meeting that will be held in Paris of foreign and defence ministers may be the last meeting of the Council in Paris. I don't know how long it will take for the new quarters in Brussels to be made available, but on the supposition that it will not take more than the period between this December meeting and the spring meeting, it would appear that this may be the last meeting of the Council in Paris.

I'd like to say that, in a period of seven months, decisions have been made on the relocation of the Council, on the streamlining of the military headquarters - a decision has been taken to move the military committee from Washington to Brussels. We will make a formal decision at the December meeting on the site, either temporary or permanent, of the new Council headquarters in Brussels. I would like to reaffirm that, notwithstanding the differences on the question of integration between The Fourteen and France, the Alliance is united and The Fourteen have been able to make decisions consequent on the decision of France not to participate in the integrated force structure.

### FRENCH FORCES IN GERMANY

Discussions have been under way, as you know, between the Supreme Allied Commander, General

Lemnitzer, and General Ailleret, the Commander of the French forces in Germany. I don't believe that there will be any conclusion available for the consideration of the foreign ministers on the talks that are taking place between the Supreme Allied Commander and General Ailleret. But I am hopeful that, if not next week, at some time in the not too distant future these talks will result - I sincerely hope - in the continuation in Germany of French forces.

### HOPE FOR NON-PROLIFERATION PACT

I hope that we will take the decision at the next meeting about arrangements which will show beyond the shadow of doubt that no member of NATO who is not already a nuclear power on its own is to become one through any arrangement in NATO. It is important, I think, that progress be made on the conclusion of an agreement to restrict the spread of nuclear weapons, to confine the possession of nuclear weapons to those nuclear powers that now have them. In my talks in Moscow and in my talks more recently with Mr. Rusk, I feel that the prospects for an agreement on what is called non-proliferation of nuclear weapons are very hopeful, and I should hope that it would be understood outside of the NATO group that there is nothing that NATO proposes to do or had done that should provide an obstacle to the satisfactory conclusion of an agreement on non-proliferation, which I believe, represents perhaps the single most important question facing us in the international community today.

We are happy that the prospects for a treaty on outer space seems to have been concluded between the two major nuclear powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, and Canada as a strong proponent of this idea at the United Nations will, of course, be among the first to affix her signature to a treaty outlawing nuclear weapons in outer space.

### EAST-WEST RELATIONS

I believe that the main political topic at the next meeting in Paris will be the development of East-West relations. Naturally, I will report on my talks in Poland and in the Soviet Union, and the talks I had here in Ottawa this week with the Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia. A number of foreign ministers in NATO have visited Eastern Europe since the Brussels meeting. My colleagues, the French Foreign Minister and the Danish Foreign Minister, have visited a number of countries in Eastern Europe, and the British Foreign Secretary followed me by four days. He had talks with Mr. Gromyko in Moscow. My colleague, the Foreign Minister for Norway, likewise had talks with Mr. Gromyko two days after I had been in Moscow. It will be useful for us to report on these visits because there is a strong disposition on the part of all NATO countries to promote closer relations with Eastern Europe, closer relations with the Warsaw Pact countries. I am particularly interested in the initiative that Mr. George Brown, the British Foreign Secretary, has taken in discussions recently with Czechoslovakia in that connection.