

PUBLIC CEREMONY - GREECE

Prime Minister's Message:

"I am very pleased and honoured to have the opportunity of sending a brief message to the people of Greece.

"Today, pilots of the R.C.A.F. are handing over the first of 82 Sabrejet aircraft to the Royal Hellenic Air Force as part of Canada's Mutual Aid to countries, members of NATO. We in Canada feel happy that these aircraft will contribute to the common defence of peace as part of the Greek defence forces.

"We have watched with admiration your great achievements in reconstructing your country, which had suffered so much not only during the war but also during the post-war years. We therefore welcome this opportunity to assist you in strengthening your defence forces.

"NATO is a defence alliance of independent, free, peace-loving nations. It is the collective resources of all its members which are the strength of NATO, and we are confident that this strength, because it ensures that aggression could be successfully resisted provides a strong deterrent to aggression against any NATO member from whatever quarter.

"These aircraft will also, I am sure, make it clear that, although our two countries are oceans apart, we are, in fact partners in the defence of peace and the promotion of security."