



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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A CANADIAN VIEW OF NATO

A statement by Mr. Howard Green, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, to the Nato Council, October 28, 1959

I am very glad on my first official visit to Europe to have this opportunity of calling on the Council. In the few months since I took up my present position I have been impressed by the importance of the Council as a forum in which my country and others can make known their views. There is a refreshing quality of informality here which is seldom found in other diplomatic forums.

Support for Nato

At the outset of my remarks I wish to state once more that the Canadian Government is devoted to the purposes of the North Atlantic Treaty and that we continue to give it high priority among Canada's international obligations. The most recent example of our continuing support for NATO is the recent decision of the Canadian Government to re-equip the Canadian Air Division in Europe with the most modern aircraft -- a decision which we took at a time of budgetary deficits when we were unable to increase total defence expenditures.

The North Atlantic Treaty binds us together for the defence of North America and Europe. Unlike most members of the Alliance, the Canadian defence effort cannot be concentrated only in Europe. We must provide, in co-operation with the United States, for the defence of the long frontier bordering the Soviet empire in the north. In the age of missiles and long-range bombers, the defence of North America is as important to NATO as a whole as is the defence of Western Europe. The requirements of the defence of North America are expanding and costly. The maintenance of Canadian forces in Europe is a contribution to NATO over and above heavy commitments now being undertaken by the Canadian Government in the defence of the Canada-United States region.