

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY AND THE FUTURE OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE

Speech by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, to the Atlantic Treaty Association, Ottawa, September 15, 1964.

* Indicates paragraphs delivered in French.

I have great pleasure this evening, on behalf of the Canadian Government, in welcoming you to our capital city. In the space of little more than a year we have been privileged to act as host to a ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council and to the present Tenth Annual Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association. This has been not only a privilege but also an opportunity, an opportunity of bringing our friends and partners from within the Atlantic community into closer contact with Canada.

* Let me say that Canada possesses, in a high degree, the characteristics of what we may call a typical country of the Atlantic community. We have inherited two great streams of Western culture; we are constantly reminded of our European origins by the ties of blood, of language and of thought. These streams have important tributaries, which are immigration, travel and study, as well as the many contacts between individuals and institutions of our respective countries. But, though we stem indeed from European stock, we are first of all North Americans, and this geographical fact determines our manner of living and our way of thinking. We are aware, too, that the thermonuclear age, which has diminished the effect of distance, has placed us between two nuclear giants.

* This diversity of origins we regard both as an asset and a challenge. We try to meet the challenge in a spirit of mutual understanding, tolerance and conciliation. This formula - mutual understanding, tolerance and conciliation - which has nothing magic about it, is just as necessary for the Atlantic community, I think, as it is to us. I use the term "Atlantic community" without hesitation since, for us, NATO transcends the idea of a mere military alliance. The first objective of NATO, chronologically speaking and according to the logical order of priorities, has undoubtedly been to ensure our collective security. But we conceive