



Information Division
Department of External Affairs
Ottawa Canada

Canadian Weekly

Bulletin

Vol. 23, No. 49

December 4, 1968

CANADA AND NATO

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau made the following statement to the House of Commons recently regarding the NATO ministerial meeting held in Brussels on November 15 and 16:

As Honourable Members will be aware, the regular semi-annual meeting of the North Atlantic Council in ministerial session, which is customarily held in December, was advanced this year to permit consideration of the consequences for the alliance of the situation created by the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Canada was represented at this meeting by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of National Defence....

The ministers of the 15 countries participating in the meeting were unanimous in their condemnation of Soviet armed intervention in the internal affairs of another country and they agreed that the resulting situation had created an element of uncertainty about future Soviet intentions as they affect the security of the West. In these circumstances, they reaffirmed their determination to defend the members of the alliance against any armed attack in accordance with the Treaty. They also indicated that any Soviet intervention directly or indirectly affecting the situation in Europe or in the Mediterranean would create an international crisis with grave consequences. They could not remain indifferent to any development which threatened the security of the members of the alliance.

The members participating in NATO's integrated defence programme agreed that, in the circumstances, there was a need to reassess their defences, and indicated various measures they were taking to insure that the security of NATO was being maintained at an adequate level.

CONTENTS

Canada and NATO	1
Mining on Indian Lands	2
Diplomatic Appointments	2
Births, Marriages and Deaths	2
Farewell to Sabre Jets	3
Hardy New Rose	3
U.S. Award for Retardation Work	3
Visit of IMCO Official	4
Service to Isolated Schools	4
National Forces Band	4
Shipping Act Review	5
Cheaper Colour-Prints	5
Arctic Oil and Gas Land Sale	5
Food Show in London	5
Sound Detects Wood Flaws	6
Wheat Review	6

At the same time, they reaffirmed NATO's determination to pursue the long-term goal of *détente* in East-West relations and to exploit all opportunities to make progress in disarmament.

In their statements, the Canadian ministers cautioned against the alliance over-reacting to Soviet actions in Czechoslovakia which it had agreed were not directed specifically against members of NATO.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs suggested that, while it was natural in the present circumstances to stress the defensive character of the alliance, it was essential that NATO should seek, and should be seen to be seeking, all reasonable opportunities to resume the dialogue with the Soviet Union and thus to promote, in due course, progress towards the peaceful settlement of the issues facing Europe.

REVIEW OF DEFENCE POLICY

The Minister of National Defence explained that Canada was proceeding with its review of defence policy. Meanwhile, he said we are maintaining our