



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### NATO FACES THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGING TIMES

Text of a Press Conference Given by the  
Secretary of State for External Affairs, the  
Honourable Paul Martin, Ottawa, June 1, 1966.

Mr. Martin opened the interview with the following statement:

Gentlemen, as I have to leave this afternoon for an engagement and shall not be back before I leave for Brussels for the meeting of the 14 nations of NATO on Monday and of the 15 at the regular meeting of foreign ministers on Tuesday and Wednesday and possibly Thursday of next week, I thought that you might find it useful if I presented myself so that you might ask some questions in connection with this meeting. I have asked that a statement be circulated setting out in general terms the position of the Canadian Government in connection with this important meeting, which has been referred to as one of "critical importance". I purposely avoid that phrase, but nevertheless, in my judgment, the importance of this meeting extends beyond the alliance and the NATO organization.

This meeting will really be concerned with the future of Europe and of North America's relations with Europe.

NATO, in the opinion of the Government, has served the Atlantic countries well by providing the framework for the collective defence programme necessary for the security of the West and for the stability of Europe.

There are, of course, some unresolved political problems, of which the continued division of Germany is the most important and the most intractable. On March 18, I said in the House that, in spite of France's decision to withdraw from the integrated defence structure, we regard NATO's collective defence programme as one that must be maintained, particularly at a time when Europe continues to be divided.

But I hasten to point out that, while France has removed itself from the integrated force structure, it remains a party to the Treaty. As President de Gaulle has said, France continues to be among its allies, it continues to accept the automatic obligations, both military and otherwise, provided for in the Treaty.