

PRESS RELEASE

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that re-negotiation of the 1949 Air Transport Agreement between Canada and the United States would begin in Washington on April 27, 1964. The Canadian negotiators will be led by Mr. F. T. Wood, Chairman, Air Transport Board.

The civil air relations between Canada and the United States were discussed by the Prime Minister and the late President Kennedy at their meeting in Hyannis Port in May, 1963. At that time it was agreed that discussions would be initiated to study the air travel arrangements from the point of view of the travelling public and of the airlines of the two countries. Subsequently the late President Kennedy directed Professor John K. Galbraith of Harvard University to undertake a study of the air relations between Canada and the United States. Professor Galbraith visited Ottawa and Washington, and held discussions with Government officials and representatives of the airlines of both countries. His report to President Kennedy, in which he recommended re-negotiation of the 1949 Agreement, was also made available to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and President Johnson gave further consideration to this subject at their meeting in Washington in January, 1964, and agreed that negotiations on the bilateral air agreement would begin shortly in order to work out satisfactory arrangements.

In addition to Mr. Wood, the Canadian Delegation will be composed of officials from the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Transport and the Air Transport Board.