

No. 58/2

REPORT ON NATO CONFERENCE, PARIS.

by

Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker as prepared
for Radio and Television Broadcast on December
22, 1957.

My fellow Canadians.....once again I thank you for granting me these few minutes of your time to bring you the Season's Greetings, and to say a few words about the NATO Conference in Paris, from which I have just returned. This is the season when the thoughts of men and women of goodwill everywhere return to the eternal hope of peace on earth in our time. For that reason I am happy to report that the Conference was, in every sense of the word, a PEACE Conference and I believe that substantial and lasting progress was made towards that most important of all objectives of the free nations of the world.

Mes chers concitoyens ... une fois de plus je vous remercie de m'accorder ces quelques minutes de votre temps pour vous adresser mes meilleurs voeux de Noël et pour vous dire quelques mots au sujet de la conférence de l'OTAN à laquelle je viens d'assister à Paris. Nous sommes au temps de l'année, ou, partout, les hommes et les femmes de bonne volonté nourrissent plus que jamais l'espoir éternel de la paix sur terre à notre époque. Aussi suis-je heureux de pouvoir vous dire, au début de ces quelques remarques, que la conférence a été, vraiment, une conférence de la PAIX; je crois que nous avons progressé de façon sensible et durable vers la paix, le plus important de tous les objectifs des nations libres du monde.

It was, I think a happy coincidence that the Conference was held just before Christmas. The spirit of the blessed season was constantly with us, even as we discussed those grim realities which still stand between the Free World and lasting peace.

I am sure that the basic facts of the Paris Meeting are well known to most of you but I would like to emphasize a few aspects which may have escaped you in these busy days.

I should say at once that not since the Versailles Conference of thirty-eight years ago have the heads of so many states sat down together to plan for peace. The fifteen nations who comprise the North Atlantic Treaty Organization were represented by their leaders - an indication in itself of the determination of the free democracies of the world to join hands and hearts in the common cause of world humanity.

NATO is a defensive alliance of free nations who seek not only to preserve peace but also to maintain freedom. The objectives of our nations is a world in which both will be assured to all men. NATO's objective is not Peace at any cost, but Freedom at any cost, except at the cost of Freedom itself.

There was no room for doubt in the minds of those of us who sat around the Conference table in Paris that peace in the world today depends on preparedness to meet the threat of war tomorrow. We who cherish freedom must be ready to defend it at any