

PRESS RELEASE



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Fifteen years ago today the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington. Canada on that occasion was represented by her present Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson.

The NATO Alliance has been an outstanding success for its aim was to seek security and preserve freedom through collective effort and this aim has been accomplished. NATO has proved itself in the past; it must now learn to deal with the changing problems of today's world. It is not enough to deter war. Vital as this is, NATO must take advantage of all serious opportunities to explore ways of establishing a new and more settled relationship between the East and West.

NATO members must soon decide what type of alliance is best suited to the '70's and '80's. Canada, for its part, considers that the present alliance must be continued, that it must remain a strong but outward looking coalition and that its members must work for closer links between Europe and North America.

Canadian forces in Europe, North America and the North Atlantic are playing an important role in contributing to the deterrence of war. The Canadian Government has every intention of continuing to make this type of contribution to NATO in the belief that through collective defence we can preserve freedom and, some day, achieve a real and lasting peace.