

Affairs as chairman of the North Atlantic Council has sent the following message to the Prime Minister of Italy, Signor de Gasperi:

I am sure that I speak for all NATO governments in expressing to you our warm sympathy and deep concern for the trials and hardships which the people in Northern Italy are suffering from the disastrous floods. Italy's partners in NATO will, I know, wish to co-operate by whatever means may be possible in giving him help and assistance to meet this tragic emergency.

I know that the means by which some assistance, either direct or indirect, could be made available to supplement the rescue operations which are being assisted by the United States and United Kingdom forces are being actively explored. The United States and the United Kingdom had armed forces stationed quite close by and they were able to be of very substantial assistance in this disaster. As soon as more details are available as to what is urgently needed—I have heard something to the effect that it is blankets and medical supplies—we will all be in a better position to determine what could or should be done.

Next day the Prime Minister returned to this subject, and said in part:

... Perhaps hon. members will have noticed in the news this morning that the Canadian Red Cross Society in addition to supplies from a stock pile in Geneva is contributing \$15,000 worth of supplies from Canada. These supplies are taking the form of blankets, woolen underwear, shoes, powdered milk and medicines. The Society has approached the Government with the request that we facilitate the transport of this material to Europe.



—Capital Press

MR. CASEY IN OTTAWA

Australia's Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Richard G. Casey, (second from right), accompanied by the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton, chats with Canadian war veterans in Confederation Square, Ottawa. Mr. Casey spent three days in the Canadian capital in discussion with Canadian Government leaders, en route from the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris to Australia.