

HIGH COMMISSIONER NAMED: Mr. George Drew has been named Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, effective August 1. Mr. Drew's appointment was announced June 25 in London, England, by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker.

Mr. Drew, a native of Guelph, Ontario, was Premier of Ontario before he assumed national leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1948. From that year until ill health forced his resignation last September, Mr. Drew was Leader of the Official Opposition in the House of Commons.

The London post has been vacant since May 8, when the former High Commissioner, Mr. Norman Robertson, left to become Canadian Ambassador to the United States.

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MUTUAL AID PROGRAMME: Mr. Howard Green, Acting Minister of Defence Production, announced June 27 that arrangements had been completed with the United States Defence Department under which Canada will participate through its Mutual Aid programme in the supply by the United States of Canadian-produced CF 100 all-weather aircraft to Belgium. The CF 100 aircraft was selected by the Belgian Government as being best suited to meet its all-weather aircraft requirements.

Under the Canadian Mutual Aid programme, Canada's share will include the supply of initial spares for the aircraft, spare engines, ground support and test equipment, training equipment and conversion training for pilots for the operation of the aircraft. Deliveries of the aircraft and supporting equipment will commence this year and will be completed by the end of 1958.

The programme is expected to cost in the order of \$43,000,000 of which Canada's share under our Mutual Aid programme will be 25 per cent of the total programme.

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VISITS FORCES: Canada's new Minister of National Defence, the Honourable George R. Pearkes, VC, CB, DSO, MC, made a flying visit to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade Group at Soest, Germany, June 27.

On his arrival, Mr. Pearkes was met by a 100-man guard of honour from the 1st Battalion of his former regiment, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Guns of the 4th Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, fired a 17-gun salute. He had luncheon with senior officers of the Canadian NATO formation. Later he conferred with the commander of the formation, Brig. Roger Rowley, of Ottawa.

It was Mr. Pearkes' second visit to the 2nd Brigade in the past 11 months. He earlier saw the overseas formation last July among a group of Canadian Parliamentarians. At that time he warmly praised the brigade in the House of Commons for its efficiency and conduct in Europe.

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER: The following message on the occasion of the July 1 observance of Canada's National Day was sent from London by Prime Minister Diefenbaker, who is attending the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers:

"It would have been my wish to be in Canada on this the ninetieth anniversary of Confederation and the birth of our nation; but the swift march of events has made it necessary for me to be here in London at this important conference of the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth.

"Ninety years is but a heartbeat in the life of a nation, but the passage of the years has brought to our country vast material developments undreamt of by our forefathers.

"In the preservation of spiritual values also, Canada has played a magnificent role in world affairs. In two world wars, Canadians of every racial origin joined in common sacrifice to maintain freedom and preserve peace.

"Our country will, I am sure, contribute in ever increasing measure to the maintenance of freedom, in co-operation with the nations of the Commonwealth, the United States and other nations of the Free World. We have no pages of hatred in our book of life. Canada will do her part to achieve that permanent world peace which is the earnest desire of all peoples of goodwill.

"It is my hope that in the larger role which Canada will play in the days ahead, Canadians will use their power and influence with humility, tolerance and forbearance. It is in that spirit that I extend greetings to my fellow Canadians on our National Day."

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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: A majestic display of Canadiana took place at Dortmund, Germany last week-end to mark Dominion Day in Germany. The celebrations, marking Canada's 90th birthday, were staged by soldiers and their families with the Canadian NATO formation in Germany, the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade Group.

More than 12,000 soldiers and members of their families congregated Saturday with thousands of European and American guests in one of West German's largest outdoor arenas, the Rote Erde stadium. The giant field day featured a gallery of sports events, a flag-decked Canadian-style midway and a spectacular military tattoo.

The two-hour military tattoo, highlight of the day's activities, took place in the afternoon. Against a backdrop of a giant Canadian coat of arms, the story of the birth and growth of Canada was told by a commentator.

Events following included a performance of precision foot drill by 300 men from the 1st Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment; a fencing fantasia and offerings from a 100-man choral group from the 1st Battalion, Le Royal 22e Regiment; and a massed feu de joie and 21-gun salute.