

**NATO MINISTERS MEET:** Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council was held in Paris last week.

Canada was represented at the meeting by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.E. Pearson and the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Ralph Campney. They were assisted by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the North Atlantic Council, Mr. L.D. Wilgress, General Charles Foulkes, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff, and Officials of the Permanent Delegation in Paris and of the Departments of External Affairs, National Defence, Finance and Defence Production.

While the Council on the level of permanent representatives in Paris is in continuous session, ministerial meetings are held from time to time as occasion requires and a full-scale meeting of Ministers is held once a year in December. In addition to the subjects which are usually considered at the December ministerial meetings, such as the completion of the 1956 annual review of NATO defence plans and preparations for 1957, the Ministers gave particular consideration to the current developments in the international situation as they affect NATO, and to the report by the Foreign Ministers of Italy, Norway and Canada who were asked last spring by the Council to advise on ways and means to improve and extend NATO cooperation in non-military fields and to develop greater unity within the Atlantic Community.

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**COLOMBO PLAN CONTRIBUTION:** Subject to Parliamentary approval, a Canadian contribution of an amount of \$34,400,000 will be made in the fiscal year 1957-58 to assist countries in South and South-East Asia participating in the Colombo Plan. A similar amount for assistance to Colombo Plan countries has been made available during the present fiscal year, 1956-57. This will mean that since the beginning of the Colombo Plan in 1950 Canada will have contributed by March 31, 1958, a total of \$198,800,000 to the Colombo Plan.

As in the past, Canada's 1957-58 contribution will continue to assist economic development projects in India, Pakistan and Ceylon. Part of the Canadian contribution will also be devoted to economic development projects in other member countries. In addition to the capital aid provided, a percentage of the money will be devoted to the technical assistance programme.

Canadian assistance under the Colombo Plan has been to a large extent concentrated on power developments, on building up transport and communication systems and on surveys of natural resources.

The Colombo Plan originated at a meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers in January 1950 at Colombo, Ceylon. From the first, however, it was envisaged that countries outside the Commonwealth would participate. Today, membership in the Colombo Plan consists of the Com-

monwealth countries--Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, the United Kingdom (together with Malaya, British Borneo and Singapore)--and also Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

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**AID TO REFUGEES:** The Government has allocated \$250,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and \$250,000 to the Canadian Red Cross Society, for assistance to the victims of the recent tragic events in Hungary. Both sums will be charged against the vote of \$1,000,000 recently approved for this purpose by the special session of Parliament. This allocation of half of the money voted by Parliament is without prejudice to the exact distribution of the remaining \$500,000, on which it is expected that a decision will be taken shortly.

In effect, this increases the amounts at present being made available to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to the Canadian Red Cross Society to \$250,000 each instead of the amount of \$100,000 each originally announced by the Prime Minister last November 7.

By December 18, approximately 2,400 Hungarian refugees had been welcomed to Canada as immigrants.

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**NEW SERVICE:** A new service internationally known as TELEX giving fast continuous written communication between subscribers in Canada and Europe has been inaugurated.

International Teleprinter exchange Service provides instantaneous written communication to desired points. It is operated on the teletype principle. Participating in the new service will be Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Telegraphs, Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation and the Commercial Cable Company.

The subscriber in Canada will be equipped with a teleprinter machine. By dialing an appropriate number, connection can be made with the switchboard of C.O.T.C. or the Commercial Cable Company in Montreal. The international operator in Montreal will connect the subscriber to desired station in the United Kingdom or Europe.

The subscriber may also dial directly to CN or CP Telegraphs for telegram or cablegram service to any point in the world. The same system enables the telegraph companies to deliver written messages directly to the teletype unit in his office.

Canadian stations are located in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver, with expansion to other Canadian points to follow.

In addition to present European stations, outlets will be available very shortly to connect Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan and nine Central and South American countries to the International Telex network.