

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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No. 61/1      ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT

A statement to the House of Commons on December 16, 1960, by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Fleming.

I should like to offer the House a report on the successful outcome of the meeting held in Paris on December 13 and 14 to consider and sign a Convention under which the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development is to be established next year.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees) and I represented the Government and signed the Convention on behalf of Canada. Other representatives signed on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the three European communities; that is to say, the Coal and Steel Community, the Atomic Energy Community and the European Economic Community. It is the intention of the Government to seek Parliamentary approval of the convention at this session.

On January 18 last I made a report to the House on the events that had led to the establishment in 1948 of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation in connection with the Marshall Plan, to the subsequent associate membership of Canada and the United States in that Organization in 1950, and to the recent decision to reconstitute the Organization to meet the needs of the future and to provide for the full membership of these two countries. It is gratifying to be able, less than a year later, to report to the House that the task of reconstitution has been accomplished, subject to the necessary processes of ratification.

Negotiations have proceeded very actively throughout the past year. In July a second Ministerial meeting was held in Paris in order to give guidance and direction to the negotiators. My report on that meeting was read to the House by my Parliamentary Secretary on July 25.