



**NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING**

The Canadian Delegation to the North Atlantic Ministerial Session included left to right, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Brooke Claxton; the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson; and the Permanent Representative of Canada to the North Atlantic Council, Mr. L. D. Wilgress.

a German defence contribution. At the same time, it was emphasized that such arrangements must be brought within and become part of the developing Atlantic community and that no security or stability could be found through isolated arrangements either in North America or in Europe.

### Annual Review

Last April the Council completed a comprehensive review of member countries' defence programmes and adopted firm goals for the level of forces to be achieved by the end of this year. Since then a further Annual Review had been carried out of the progress made in the NATO defence effort, and the Council at this session considered a report on this review. The report recorded that the force goals for the current year had been completely achieved for land forces, and had been met "to a substantial extent" for the naval and air forces. The total defence expenditures of all the NATO countries in 1953 were calculated to amount to about \$65.5 billion, which is nearly ten per cent over the corresponding figure for 1952 and three and a half times the figure for 1949 (the year immediately preceding the start of the NATO defence build-up). Notable progress had been made in the current year in increasing the effectiveness of the NATO forces, in improving their training and equipment and in developing additional support units. North American aid programmes continued to make a major contribution to equipping the forces of the European NATO countries. The value of military equipment shipped to Europe under United States and Canadian aid programmes increased from about \$2.1 billion in 1952 to between \$3 and \$4 billion in 1953. Canadian appropriations for this purpose have totalled over \$1 billion since the inception of the Canadian Mutual Aid Programme in 1950-51.

On the basis of the report on the 1953 Annual Review, the Council agreed upon the level of NATO forces to be achieved and maintained over the next