



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1954.

The Department of External Affairs today announced that the Canadian Embassy in Paris had transmitted a message from the Secretary of State for External Affairs to M. Mendes-France conveying his continued friendly interest in, and sympathetic understanding of the difficulties that his Government faces with respect to the ratification of the European Defence Community Treaty; and his earnest hope that through his endeavours a settlement of the question will be effected which will protect the interests of France and advance the cause of peace and Atlantic co-operation.

The message went on to say that Mr. Pearson did not think it an exaggeration to say that an early settlement providing for German participation in collective defence and for the avoidance of purely national German re-armament is essential to the progress, and possibly even to the maintenance of that North Atlantic collaboration which has been one of the most important and inspiring post-war contributions to peace and to a better future.

Canada, Mr. Pearson's message said, has contributed to this collaboration and wishes to continue to do so. In that spirit the Secretary of State for External Affairs hoped, as he knew M. Mendes-France and his colleagues hoped, that nothing would happen which would delay or prejudice such collaboration.