



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE,

NO. 24

MONDAY APRIL 29, 1957.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR. L.B. PEARSON, WILL HEAD THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL WHICH WILL CONVENE AT BONN FROM THURSDAY, MAY 2 TO SATURDAY, MAY 4. MR. PEARSON WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. L.D. WILGRESS, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL; MR. R.M. MACDONNELL, DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; MR. J.B.C. WATKINS, ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM HIS DEPARTMENT. THE PARTY WILL LEAVE OTTAWA TODAY FOR BONN.

THE SPRING NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IS TRADITIONALLY RESERVED FOR A REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AS IT AFFECTS THE NATO ALLIANCE, AND THIS YEAR NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL AGAIN HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGING VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF COMMON CONCERN TO THE ALLIANCE, THUS MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING THE PROCESSES OF CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION AMONG ALL THE NATO GOVERNMENTS. THIS MEETING WILL MARK THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT OF NATO IN PARIS IN 1952 THAT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING HAS BEEN HELD AWAY FROM PARIS. IT WILL ALSO BE THE LAST MEETING PRESIDED OVER BY NATO'S FIRST SECRETARY GENERAL, LORD ISMAY, WHO WILL BE RETIRING FROM THAT OFFICE AFTER FIVE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE. LORD ISMAY'S SUCCESSOR WILL BE THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BELGIUM, MR. SPAAK.