

In response to a question asked by Mr. David A. Croll (Liberal, Toronto-Spadina) on December 7, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, replied:

Yesterday afternoon the United States Ambassador left with me a note in which reference was made first to the show-cause order dated December 1, 1949 and served on the Colonial Air Lines by the Canadian Air Transport Board; and second, to the delay surrounding Trans-Canada Air Lines application to the United States Civil Aeronautics Board to operate the route between Montreal and New York.

In this note the Government of the United States proposes discussions between representatives of our two governments, aimed at resolving the present difficulties. The Canadian Government, which has not yet had an opportunity to reply formally to the note, will of course be quite willing to participate in any such discussions. The United States State Department is aware that we have at all times been prepared to have intergovernmental discussions on these matters, and, in fact, discussions between officials of the two governments have been taking place recently. I personally am satisfied that in this matter the Canadian Government has done everything possible to resolve the situation reasonably and fairly.

I wish to make it quite clear that these proposed discussions, which we shall be happy to enter into, will not in any way prejudice proceedings before the Air Transport Board, nor prevent the board from proceeding with the hearing scheduled for December 12 next, when Colonial Air Lines will be required to show cause why the Air Transport Board should not suspend the licence which was issued to that air line to operate the Montreal-New York route. This hearing is an administrative procedure within the regulations under which the Air Transport Board operates, and will be proceeded with.

Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers at Colombo

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, announced to the House on December 8 the composition of the Canadian representation at the meeting of Commonwealth ministers of external affairs which began on January 9 in Colombo, Ceylon:

... The Government has decided that the Secretary of State for External Affairs should head the Canadian delegation to this conference.

The Minister of Fisheries, who will be representing Canada at the meeting of the governing body of the International Labour Organization at Mysore, India, at the beginning of January, will also be available to attend the Colombo conference if the labour conference finishes in time.

The advisers to the Canadian delegation to the Colombo conference will consist of the Deputy Under-Secretary (of State for External Affairs), Mr. Reid; the head of the Far Eastern Division of the Department, Mr. Menzies; and Mr. LePan, of the Economic Division of the Department.

It has been arranged that the newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr. Johnson, will travel with the delegation to Colombo en route to his post, and will also act as an adviser. A senior official of the Department of Trade and Commerce will accompany the delegation, because we hope to take advantage of our presence in Karachi, New Delhi and Colombo to explore the possibilities of increased trade between Canada and Pakistan, India and Ceylon.