

National Defence Policy

Canadian Commitments to NATO

On October 18, the Minister of National Defence, recalling the sections of the Throne Speech announcing Canada's contribution to the forces under the command of General Eisenhower in Europe, read and tabled Order-in-Council P.C. 5598, which provided for maintenance of a special army unit for that purpose. Mr. Claxton then spoke as follows:

While preliminary arrangements are being proceeded with, it is intended that the movement of the brigade will begin in early November and be completed by the middle of December.

The 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade will, from the time of its arrival in Europe, form part of the integrated force under General Eisenhower and will be stationed in Germany for defence purposes under the North Atlantic Treaty with the concurrence of the allied high commission, the present competent defence authority in Germany.

Arrangements have been made to group the Canadian brigade with the British, Belgian and Netherlands forces. The brigade will be stationed in the Hanover area.

No. 410 squadron of the R.C.A.F., equipped with F-86E Sabre aircraft, is proceeding next month on H.M.C.S. *Magnificent* to England where this and other squadrons, which will follow later, will be stationed at North Luffenham airfield in the Midlands pending the provision of airfields and other accommodation in western Europe.

Representation at the Vatican

On October 24, Mr. Gagnon (Ind. Chicoutimi) asked for a statement on the likelihood of the Canadian Government's appointing a representative to the Vatican. Mr. Pearson replied:

From time to time the Government gives consideration to the establishment of direct diplomatic relations with sovereign states in which Canada has at the present time no diplomatic missions. This, of course, includes the Vatican.

Death of Liaquat Ali Khan

Concerning the death by assassination of the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent said in part:

I was shocked to learn, as I am sure all other hon. members were, of this terribly tragic event. I had met Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan on a number of occasions, and happily recall being host to him during his visit to Canada in the spring of 1950. Hon. members will recall the occasion when he spoke so eloquently to both Houses of Parliament in this chamber at the end of May 1950, on the subject of Pakistan, the Commonwealth and the future.

The House rose to observe a short silence, following which similar expressions of sympathy were made by Mr. Drew, Mr. Coldwell and Mr. Low.

Anglo-Egyptian Treaty

Replying on October 16 to a question by Mr. Green on the Canadian attitude toward the unilateral Egyptian abrogation of the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, Mr. Pearson said:

The situation in the area to which my hon. friend's question refers is a difficult one indeed at the moment, and highly inflammable. I do not think any statement from me at this time in answer to a question will be helpful. I shall take that question as notice, however, and if anything can usefully be said, I shall say it at the first opportunity.