

PUBLIC CEREMONY - TURKEY

Prime Minister's Message:

"It is a great honour and pleasure for me to send a message to the people of Turkey on this occasion. Today the Turkish Air Force is receiving the first of more than 80 Sabrejet aircraft given as part of Canada's programme of Mutual Aid to NATO.

"Some of these aircraft will undoubtedly be flown by Turkish aircrew who have trained, or are in training, with the R.C.A.F. in Canada. We have warmly welcomed these young men and feel confident of the part they will play in the Turkish Air Force.

"Although we in Canada are geographically separated from you by half the world, we are, in fact, bound firmly together in NATO. It is on this Alliance of free, peace-loving nations that the independence and security of each depends.

"We in Canada are confident that the collective strength of NATO, because it ensures that aggression against any member could be successfully resisted, provides the most effective deterrent to aggression against any NATO member from whatever quarter. In giving these fighter aircraft to the Turkish Air Force, Canada will feel an even greater confidence - which will be shared by your other NATO partners - in your ability to continue to contribute to the defence of peace and the promotion of security."