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STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; ON RETURN FROM
THE MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD IN PARIS DECEMBER 14 TO 16, 1965.

On his arrival in London today from the NATC Ministerial Meeting in Paris, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Paul Martin, made the following comments:

This was a valuable meeting of the NATO ministers. Decisions will be required in the months ahead on many difficult problems facing the alliance and it is gratifying that there has been a frank exposition of the various national points of view and of the differences which exist among them. There was a universal desire to avoid aggravating these differences but as a result of this meeting each of us knows better what our partners think.

EAST-WEST RELATIONS

This meeting clearly established that NATO governments have an interest that goes beyond defending the NATO area. They are looking to the eventual resolution of the outstanding issues which have divided Europe for so long. Recognizing that recent indications of Soviet attitudes are not encouraging, the members of NATO nevertheless reaffirmed their determination to find common understanding with the USSR and the countries of eastern Europe. This meeting advanced that purpose.