



PRESS RELEASE

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The Prime Minister today issued the following statement:

The Minister of Finance, the Hon. Douglas C. Abbott, is leaving by air today for London for informal talks with United Kingdom and United States authorities and, subsequently, to represent the Government at the Meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers. The date on which the meeting will begin is now fixed for July 13.

Mr. M.W. Mackenzie, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Dr. G.S.H. Barton, Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, are flying to the United Kingdom at the same time as Mr. Abbott. They are both members of the United Kingdom-Canada Continuing Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs. The other two Canadian members of the Committee, Dr. W.C. Clark, Deputy Minister of Finance, and Mr. Dana Wilgress, High Commissioner for Canada, are already in London.

It will be remembered that this Committee was formed following the visit of Sir Stafford Cripps to Canada last September and held its first meeting last January. It was established as a means of ensuring continuity and close liaison between official representatives of the two countries.

The presence of these Canadian officials in London will afford opportunity for contacts and conversations with the United Kingdom members of the Committee. The extent of these conversations will naturally depend on circumstances as they develop.
