

# *NATO Ministerial Meeting*

*The North Atlantic Council, of which the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, is honorary president for the year 1965-1966, met in ministerial session in Paris from December 14 to 16. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Martin released the following statement to the press in London:*

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 U.S.S.R. and the countries of Eastern Europe. This meeting advanced that purpose.

## **Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

It was particularly significant that an organization created for defensive purposes should have demonstrated such an active interest in progress towards disarmament. In particular, there was a full awareness of the danger of nuclear proliferation in all parts of the world.

## **Non-NATO Areas**

It has for some time been evident that NATO could not limit itself to a discussion of problems within the treaty area. As on previous occasions, there was general discussion of the areas of conflict and tension outside the area of the alliance. Vietnam, Rhodesia and Cyprus all received attention. These situations are naturally of grave concern to the alliance as a whole, even though they do not involve the reciprocal obligations of the members of NATO. It is undoubtedly helpful to those directly involved in the situation to know the views of their partners.

## **Cyprus**

As one of the main contributors to the UN Force in Cyprus, Canada, as on past occasions, took the opportunity at this meeting to explore the prospects of a set-