

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

## PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RELEASED TODAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM M. PAUL HENRI SPAAK, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO:

"UPON THE OCCASION OF THE TERMINATION OF THE CANADIAN TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR NATO PILOTS, THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL WISH TO EXPRESS TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE GENEROUS AND VALUABLE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE CANADIAN PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE THROUGH THIS IMAGINATIVE SCHEME. BY PROVIDING, SINCE 1950, TRAINING FACILITIES FOR MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND PILOTS AND NAVIGATORS FROM TEN NATO COUNTRIES, CANADA HAS MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO BUILDING UP AND TO MAINTAINING THE AIR FORCES OF THE ALLIANCE.

THE CANADIAN TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR NATO PILOTS HAS PROVIDED A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF INTERDEPENDENCE. IT HAS MATERIALLY ASSISTED THE ALLIANCE IN ITS EFFORTS FOR COLLECTIVE DEFENCE AND FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND IT HAS STRENGTHENED THE BONDS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES WHICH FORM THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY."

THE NATO AIR TRAINING PROGRAMME WAS DESIGNED TO HELP OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES MEET THE PILOT AND NAVIGATOR REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR AIR FORCES. THE PROGRAMME HAS NOW SUBSTANTIALLY SERVED ITS PURPOSE, AND SINCE THE TRAINING FACILITIES IN MOST COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE WILL NOW PERMIT THEM TO MEET THEIR NORMAL REQUIREMENTS, THE FULL SCALE NATO AIR TRAINING PROGRAMME HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED.

HOWEVER, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, EUROPE, A SPECIAL EXTENSION OF THE AIR TRAINING PLAN WAS ARRANGED

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