

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable James A. Richardson, Minister of National Defence, will attend the semi-annual NATO Ministerial Meetings in Belgium early in December.

Mr. Richardson will take part in the sessions of the NATO Defence Planning Committee (DPC) on December 10 and 11.

Mr. MacEachen will attend a meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) on December 12 and 13.

The meetings will be held at NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

The Defence Planning Committee is composed of defence ministers of fourteen Alliance members and is concerned with military aspects of the Alliance. France does not participate in the NATO integrated military command.

The North Atlantic Council is composed of foreign ministers of the fifteen member countries of NATO who meet in ministerial session twice yearly to discuss international political developments as they relate to NATO.

The Ministers will be assisted by delegations involving officials from both the Department of External Affairs and the Department of National Defence.