

# PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, announced today that the Government had agreed to release Mr. James A. Roberts from his functions as Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce in order to enable him to assume the post of Deputy Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mr. Roberts had a distinguished record during World War II when he commanded the 8th Infantry Brigade with the rank of Brigadier, being awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and the order of Orange-Nassau by the Dutch Government. He has had a distinguished record in Government service since his appointment as Associate Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce in July 1958. As the senior Canadian official in the trade field, he has been a member of or has led many trade missions and participated in trade and economic negotiations in many parts of the world.

The Canadian Government, when asked by the other members of the NATO Alliance to provide a nominee for the post of Deputy Secretary-General, believed it was essential to propose someone of stature who would make a first class contribution to the NATO Alliance. This is the first time a Canadian has been appointed to a senior position in NATO and this appointment will give added emphasis to the trans-Atlantic nature of the Alliance which is so vital if NATO is to evolve in the coming decade. Mr. Roberts' appointment is an indication of the importance which the Government attaches to continuing Canadian membership in NATO.

Mr. Roberts is to take up his new appointment on September 1, 1964.