

MARTIN HEADS NATO

It was announced by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Paris recently that Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, had been named president of the North Atlantic Council, as of September 30.

The President of the Council serves for one year. He is nominated by his government at the request of the Chairman of the NATO Council.

Mr. Martin succeeds Mr. Spaak, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Belgium.

TORONTO SYMPHONY TO FRANCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, recently announced that, under the Government's programme of cultural relations with countries entirely or partly of French expression, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra would visit France early in October to give a series of three concerts, two in Paris and one in Lyon. This will be the second visit to Paris in recent years of a Canadian symphony orchestra; the Montreal Symphony Orchestra played there during a European tour in 1962.

With Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, Les Feux Follets and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Toronto Symphony will represent the Canadian performing arts at the Commonwealth Arts Festival, which opened on September 16 in London and will close on October 2.

Mr. Martin pointed out that the presence of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in Paris and Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde in London would serve as a reminder to both founding nations of the richness of Canada's bicultural heritage. He added that the possibility was being studied of a tour of European countries of French expression next year by the National Ballet and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

TRANSPORTATION STUDIES

Mr. J.W. Pickersgill, Minister of Transport, recently announced that a contract had been awarded to a consortium consisting of the Economic Intelligence Unit of London, England, and Acres Research & Planning Limited of Niagara Falls for a comprehensive series of studies covering the transportation problems and requirements of the Atlantic Provinces. The cost of the project will be \$306,000. The studies will give particular consideration to the role of transportation in stimulating the economic development of the Atlantic region of Canada.

ALL ASPECTS COVERED

The studies will be comprehensive in that they will deal with all aspects of transportation. They will take, as primary starting-points and special areas for attention, the two main subjects that were emphasized by the Royal Commission on Transportation (1959) — the present working and suitability of the Maritimes Freight Rates Assistance Act in satisfying the purpose for which it was originally established, and the problem of transportation and communication to, from

and within Newfoundland. The studies will extend to all forms of transportation — by rail, water, road and air — and will review all aspects of transportation in and to the Atlantic Provinces, their relevance to the economic development of the region generally, both in terms of its internal transportation and its connections with the rest of Canada and with other countries.

The studies will be carried out by the consortium in co-ordination with others that are going forward, under the auspices of the Atlantic Development Board and the National Harbours Board, concerning ports in the Atlantic Provinces and the general economic development of the area. These special studies on transportation will be under the joint supervision of the Department of Transport and the Atlantic Development Board.

PLAQUE TO PALLISER EXPEDITION

A plaque commemorating a controversial scientific expedition (1857-59), described at the time both as "a useless exercise" and "a great scientific achievement", was unveiled by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Harry Hays, on September 25 at the new national historic site at Lake Minnewanka, Banff National Park. The plaque, recommended by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, has been provided under the Federal Government's historical commemoration programme.

The expedition was led by John Palliser of the Royal Geographic Society, and included Lieutenant Thomas Blakiston, magnetic surveyor, John W. Sullivan, astronomical observer, Eugene Bourgeau, a botanical collector, and Dr. James Hector, a geologist, naturalist and medical doctor.

COURSE OF EXPLORATION

The group investigated the canoe route from Lake Superior to the Red River, explored the Southern Prairies and a large part of the boundary territory, and located four passes through the Rockies; the Kananaskis, the Vermilion, the North Kootenay and the Kicking Horse (so named because Dr. Hector was there kicked by his horse). In 1859, it rediscovered the Howse Pass, originally discovered by David Thompson in 1807.

Under the sponsorship of James Ball, then British Under-Secretary of State, the expedition was underwritten by the Colonial Office to the tune of £5,000 and drew bitter criticism from Hudson's Bay Company employees and various officials of the Colonial Office.

OBSERVATIONS SYSTEMATIZED

There is no doubt, however, that this expedition, even if it covered ground already explored, led the way for more systematic observations. Earlier maps were corrected, and the geological surveys made were the basis of the first complete description of the country west of the Great Lakes. Its presence in the West was also useful in reinforcing British claims to the territory north of the American border.

Many names on the map of Canada, such as those of the passes already mentioned, and of Mts Hector, Ball, Blakiston and Sullivan recall this expedition.