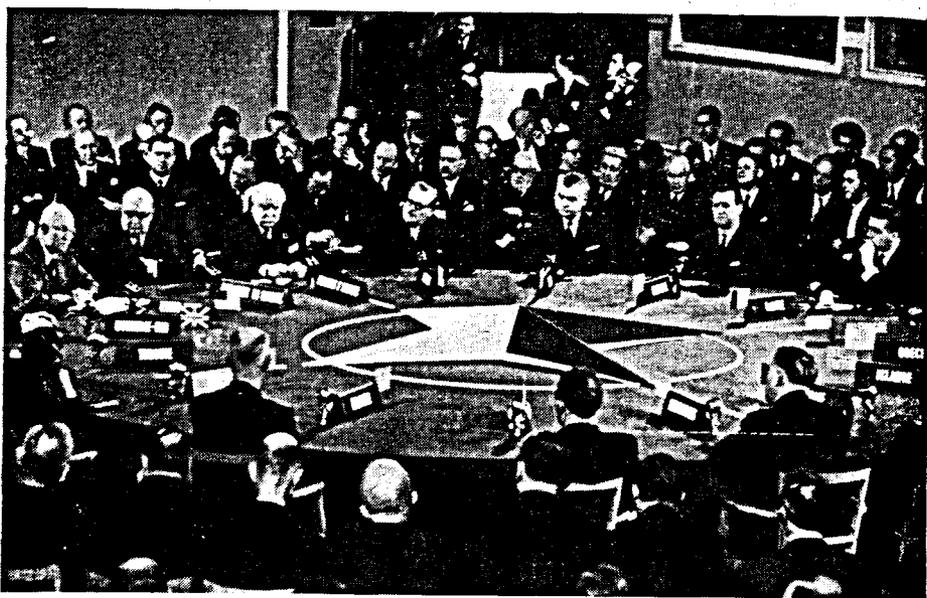


NATO Heads of Government Meeting

A meeting unique in the history of the Alliance took place in Paris from December 16 to 19 at the NATO Permanent Headquarters in the Palais de Chaillot. Fifteen Heads of Government came together to discuss and take broad decisions of principle on the main military, political and economic questions confronting the Alliance. Canada was represented by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker and by the Ministers of Finance, National Defence and External Affairs.

The decision to hold a special meeting was taken early in November. The NATO Council normally meets each year in December to review the defence contributions of member governments and to decide on plans for future years. This annual review was undertaken and completed this year by the Permanent Council immediately prior to the Heads of Government Meeting. It was felt that this year the number of problems and decisions with the broadest implications, which confronted the Alliance, warranted consideration at the highest level. The most important of these were the implications for NATO of the successful testing of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) by the Soviet Union last August. The Russian announcement of this achievement was later confirmed when they succeeded in launching earth satellites later in the year.



AT NATO CONFERENCE

Government leaders of NATO member countries listen as President Eisenhower delivers opening address of summit conference. Facing camera, clockwise from left: President Eisenhower, Paul-Henri Spaak, Secretary-General of NATO; Premier Joseph Bech of Luxembourg, conference chairman; Prime Minister Achille Van Acker of Belgium, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister Hans Hansen of Denmark, and Premier Felix Gaillard of France. The four men flanking Mr. Diefenbaker in the row behind are, left to right: Finance Minister Donald Fleming, Mr. George R. Pearkes, Minister of Defence; Mr. Sidney Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs; and Mr. L. Dana Wilgress, permanent representative and Ambassador of Canada to the North Atlantic Council.