

PRECEDENCE OF HIGH COMMISSIONERS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs issued the following statement to the Press on December 20, 1948:

"The Government of Canada has had under consideration the application in Canada of the recommendations concerning the precedence of High Commissioners made at the recent meeting in London of Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

"The Canadian Government has decided, in consultation with the Governments of other countries of the Commonwealth, that High Commissioners at Ottawa will rank with Ambassadors according to the date of the presentation of Letters of Credence of Ambassadors and the date of arrival of High Commissioners at Ottawa, except that the position of Dean of the Diplomatic Corps will continue to be held by the senior foreign Ambassador.

"Accordingly High Commissioners will take precedence as if they had had the rank of Ambassador when they first arrived in Ottawa. They will rank among themselves according to the date of their arrival at Ottawa and not, as heretofore, according to the seniority of Commonwealth countries.

"Ministers Plenipotentiary and Chargés d'Affaires *ad interim* at Ottawa will continue to have the precedence previously accorded them by courtesy; that is to say, they will follow the new category of Ambassadors and High Commissioners."



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Following is the text of a statement issued to the Press by the United States Department of State at the conclusion of a meeting on December 10, 1948, with the representatives of the parties to the Brussels treaty and Canada:

"The Acting Secretary of State this afternoon conferred with the Ambassadors of Belgium, Canada, France, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and the Minister of Luxembourg in a continuation of the talks, begun in July, on security problems of common interest in relation to the Senate resolution of June 11, 1948. The conversations had been recessed in September to give the Governments an opportunity to consider the tentative views which had been developed. The resumed conversations are expected to continue for some time and no information concerning their substance will be made public until such time as decisions may be reached."