

But the Canadian Government welcomes this indication of France's desire to continue its formal association with the other parties to the Treaty.

The French Government has also indicated a willingness to develop organizational arrangements with other members of NATO to co-ordinate plans in the event of possible conflict. There are serious doubts as to the real effectiveness of such arrangements under the conditions which would be likely to obtain in modern war. Such arrangements could, however, constitute additional links in France's continuing association with the other members of NATO.

One object of Canadian policy will be to ensure that nothing is done which would make more difficult the resumption by France of full military participation in NATO, should France so decide. No matter how great our regret that the French Government should have taken the decision it has, we shall do all we can not to allow this action to affect the existing warm and friendly relations between Canada and France, which form an important and basic element of our foreign policy. Indeed, if the institutional links between France and NATO must be loosened, it is all the more important to maintain and strengthen, if possible, the bilateral relations.

In spite of the uncertainties and the problems which the French action will cause for us and our allies, there are certain essential points about the Canadian position which I should like once more to underline:

- (a) We shall continue to subscribe to the purposes and objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty.
- (b) Canada intends to continue to participate in the integrated military command and planning arrangements, the need for which we discovered at such tragic cost during the last two great wars, and which have become even more important with the increasing complexity and rapidity of military actions and reactions.
- (c) France's decision will require a review of NATO military arrangements. Canada will seize this opportunity for an examination of how we can best contribute to the continuing military effectiveness of the alliance and how the existing arrangements can best be adapted to meet contemporary needs.
- (d) The Canadian Government desires to preserve and strengthen the existing close and friendly relations with France and will do all it can not to allow the French action in NATO to impair our bilateral relations. The Canadian Government also hopes that the French action will not impair France's co-operation with other European and North Atlantic countries in economic, financial, trade, and other matters of great importance to France and to the rest of us.