

Economic Aid for NATO Nations

On December 21, Mr. Drew (PC, Carleton) called attention to the current issue of the *Financial Post*, in which, he said, the statement had been made that Canada had rejected requests by member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for free wheat and aluminum. In reply, Mr. Pearson said:

No report has yet been received by the Government from the Temporary Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, that is the twelve members who have been charged with the responsibility of going into this whole question of resources and requirements. What has happened, is that an executive board of that Committee consisting of three members has drafted a report to the Committee of Twelve, and that Committee of Twelve is still considering that report. The consideration has not yet been completed and may not be completed for a fortnight or so. Until a report comes from the Committee of Twelve, and not merely the Committee of Three, it would be obviously inappropriate for me to make any comment on this matter.

Korea

On December 28, in reply to a question by Mr. George A. Drew for information concerning developments in the cease-fire negotiations in Korea, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, made the following statement:

It was agreed in Korea on November 27 that if the military armistice agreement was not signed within thirty days—and I am quoting from this agreement:

The sub-delegations shall revise, immediately prior to the signing of the military armistice agreement, the above military demarcation line and the demilitarized zone in accordance with the changes which have occurred in the actual line of contact between both sides so that the revised military demarcation line will coincide exactly with the line of contact between both sides immediately prior to the signing of the military armistice agreement and will constitute the military demarcation line for the duration of the military armistice.

That is a quotation from the agreement made a month ago. At ten o'clock yesterday morning our time, the thirty-day period from November 27 expired without any military armistice agreement having been signed. This means that, after discussion which is now taking place—which is still taking place—on arrangements for the exchange of prisoners, and on the final item on the agenda, the two teams will determine a new demarcation line based on the line of contact as it stands just before the signing of any armistice. Since November 27, however, there have been no substantial alterations in the line of contact, and the line now, therefore, is almost the same as the cease-fire line which was agreed to on November 27.

An alternative method of procedure would be for the two sides to agree on an amendment of the agreement of November 27, extending the thirty-day period. We have no information as yet as to whether such an extension has been agreed on.

Canadian Missionaries in China

The following reply was made on December 3 by the Prime Minister to an inquiry by Mr. Graydon (PC, Peel) concerning treatment of Canadian missionaries in Communist China:

Unfortunately, I am not in a position to give any information about the events that have been reported in the press as having taken place over the last two or three days. It will be remembered that on April 16 the Secretary of State for External Affairs made a statement in the House regarding the situation of five Canadian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who had been arrested by the Chinese Communists in Canton. It was at that time hoped that representations made by the United Kingdom chargé d'affaires in Peking on their behalf as well as on behalf of other Canadian citizens held in custody would bring an improvement in their condition. Well, we are