



CANADA

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## CANADA AND NATO

Statement by the Secretary of State  
for External Affairs, the Honourable  
Paul Martin, before the Senate External  
Affairs Committee, March 15, 1967.

I followed your recent debate on NATO with much interest. The subject is important and timely. The Government is aware of the need to consider anew the future role of NATO and Canada's place in the Organization. I thought it might be of interest if I were to share with you in a preliminary way some of the considerations which have to be taken into account in our study of this aspect of our foreign policy.

The situation in Europe, in the East as well as in the West, is changing. The requirement for a high level of collective defence, which no one could deny when Western Europe was vulnerable to Soviet political and military pressure, is no longer unquestioned. For the first time there is hope and even expectation that we can in time work out a peace settlement in Europe. In this changing situation, it is appropriate to ask ourselves whether existing international institutions -- in this case NATO -- are well adapted for the achievement of the tasks ahead and for the satisfaction of our interests and our objectives.

### Canada's Interest in a Peace Settlement in Europe

In spite of the achievement of independence by many new nations in the past decade and the changes in international obligations which this and other developments have caused for Canada, Europe remains a primary focus of interest for us. Within Europe what do we seek? For my part, I believe it self-evident that our interest lies in a stable Europe whose internal difficulties will not constitute a threat to the peace of the world. This will require ultimately a German peace settlement and an end of the present division of Europe.

These aims will be difficult to achieve. There are no easy solutions when basic conflicts of interest have to be reconciled - the more so, when this process must take place against a legacy of suspicion fed by ideological difference, past ill-will and continuing world-wide rivalry. Solutions will take time, hard work and persistence. In the meantime, guided by a clear perception of final goals and of the genuine and major obstacles to be surmounted, we can and must take firm steps along the way. Among our immediate objectives I should include the improvement of East-West relations and, in particular, the establishment of better relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the countries of Eastern Europe. These developments will help further reduce tension and promote the confidence essential to reaching a settlement -- which will mean the end of the division of Europe.