



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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### NATO IN CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Partial text of a statement by Mr. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, before the Members of the NATO Military Committee, Ottawa, April 8, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Gentleman, I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity of meeting you today and, on behalf of the Canadian Government, of welcoming you officially to our country. We have been looking forward for some time to the visit to Canada of the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Military Committee is for us the symbol of NATO's vigilance and preparedness. I should like to express to you our very sincere appreciation for your relentless efforts in making the Organization an effective instrument of Collective defence. We know that it is no easy task to maintain a high state of military preparedness, when there are so many other demands today on the resources of member governments; however, the nature of the struggle in which we are engaged has shown that a strong military organization alone is not sufficient to ensure our survival, and that a great number of problems in the economic, social and cultural fields must also be allowed a claim on our resources. It is therefore essential that a balance be struck in the allocation of our resources. The Canadian Government has always felt, gentlemen, that you have made and continue to make excellent use of the often limited means placed at your disposal.

Recent events, and I do not mean only those in the Middle East, have emphasized to all Canadians the importance and the responsibility of Canadian foreign policy, even where there appear to be few direct Canadian interests. These events could not fail to induce the Canadian Government to make a reassessment of the principles which have underlined our policies and the factors which bear on them, as I am sure, has been the case for every other government interested in the maintenance of peace throughout the world.