



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 38

FOR AUTOMATIC RELEASE IN OTTAWA AND  
ANKARA 7 ~~P.M.~~ EDT, SUNDAY, JULY 18, 1954.  
*A.M.*

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the first six of 82 Canadian F.86E Sabrejets have been handed over by the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. H. O. Moran at Eskisehir Airport, near Ankara, to the Deputy Prime Minister Fatin Zorlu and to the Turkish Minister of National Defence Ethem Menderes.

These six jet fighters, flown to Turkey by pilots of the RCAF, are part of Canada's contribution to Turkey under the Canadian Mutual Aid Programme. The balance of the 82 Sabrejets will be delivered to Turkey in forthcoming months.

In addition to these aircraft, Canada has contributed to Turkey 195 spare jet engines and other military equipment to the value of approximately \$70 million.

During the ceremony, in which senior Turkish and NATO officials participated, Mr. Moran read a brief message from Prime Minister St. Laurent. "In giving these fighter aircraft to the Turkish Air Force," Mr. St. Laurent said, "Canada will feel an even greater confidence - which will be shared by your other NATO partners - in your ability to continue to contribute to the defence of peace and the promotion of security."

The Prime Minister also noted that some of the Canadian jet aircraft for Turkey would undoubtedly be flown by Turkish aircrew who have been or are in training with the RCAF in Canada under the NATO Air Training Programme.

A message from the Secretary General of NATO, Lord Ismay, stated that all the members of the North Atlantic Alliance would be gratified by the contribution of these aircraft which would "strengthen our means to defend ourselves against aggression", and that he was pleased that these aircraft were now to be turned over "to the capable hands of the Turkish Air Force for assignment in a new country, but always for the same cause, the preservation of peace".

Among the officials at the ceremony were General Ucaner, Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish Air Force, General Ucar, Chief of the Turkish Air Staff, General Eaton, U.S.A.F., Commander of the Sixth NATO Tactical Air Force, and General Webster, Chief of the Turkish-U.S. Air Group. Squadron Leader M.W. Dickinson of Lachine, Que., has been temporarily stationed in Turkey to assist the Turkish Air Force in adapting their facilities to handle the new aircraft.