

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No.25

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1953

Following is the text of a joint communique issued on the conclusion of the visit to Ottawa of Dr. Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany:

The Prime Minister of Canada and the Ministers of Finance, National Defence, and Citizenship and Immigration, have had friendly and constructive conversations with the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and his State Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce has also had a frank and helpful exchange of views with the Chief of the Foreign Trade Office of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Adenauer and Mr. St. Laurent agreed that their two countries were now engaged in the same struggle for the defence of freedom and for peace and that renewed hope for success in this struggle lay in the growing strength and unity of the free world. Dr. Adenauer expressed his pleasure that Canadian troops were the first to be in Germany as part of the NATO defence force, and that Canada was the first country to ratify the NATO-EDC protocol. Mr. St. Laurent, for his part, was gratified by continuing efforts for closer European co-operation, in which the German Government was playing a constructive and helpful part. This European development was considered in Canada to be an important aspect of the growing Atlantic community. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor shared the view that the sincerity of recent Sino-Soviet overtures would be tested by the willingness of these Communist regimes to take practical steps to reduce international tensions both in Europe and the Far East.

Dr. Adenauer and State Secretary Hallstein expressed their appreciation of the immigration policy of the Canadian Government, under which a substantial number of Germans had settled in Canada over the last two years. At the same time they noted the enormous difficulties still facing the Federal Republic and the authorities of West Berlin, not only in the assimilation of the millions of persons driven from their homes immediately following the war, but also in providing care and shelter for the growing stream of refugees now coming from the Eastern Zone of Germany. Mr. Harris said that the Canadian Government was fully aware of the heavy load imposed upon the Government of the Federal Republic and the authorities of West Berlin in this connection, and agreed that the procedures for the examination of refugees should be as expeditious as possible consistent with the requirements of Canadian immigration regulations.

Discussions on commercial and financial matters revealed an identity of view on the desirability of liberal policies leading to an extension of multilateral trade and, eventually, to the free convertibility of currencies. Questions of trade opportunities open to Canadian and German