

I impressed upon Secretary Rogers that the movement of oil through these waters offered no economic benefit whatever to Canada, while imposing upon Canada almost all the risks of oil pollution. We cannot prevent it legally. We can expect the United States to share our concern and to join in doing everything possible to avoid catastrophe.

Mr. Rogers undertook to let me know very shortly about arrangements for special joint studies into this environmental problem. In return, I agreed with him that such joint studies could include oil-pollution problems on the Atlantic Seaboard, where the movement of tankers to Canadian ports could threaten their environment. I am satisfied...that our views are being made known in a way as to have a bearing on United States consideration of the matter before final decisions are taken.

NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING

At the NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] foreign ministers meeting in Lisbon the alliance concentrated on the very real movement toward *détente* between East and West that was foreseen at the December meeting in Brussels. This return upon many years' careful planning, and probing of Soviet intentions, is bringing a new sense of direction to the alliance, away from confrontation and toward negotiation. As in Washington later, I had the sense of participation in an historic event.

Progress in the four-power talks on Berlin enabled ministers to express their hope that before their next meeting in December those negotiations might have reached a stage where multilateral conversations leading toward a security conference could begin. This confirms the importance the alliance attaches to a satisfactory outcome of the Berlin talks, to create the necessary climate for the resolution of wider European problems.

The principal issue at the meeting was the alliance's proposal for mutual balanced force reductions. After some years of silence, recently there have been strong indications of Soviet interest. Mr. Brezhnev's speech of last Friday strongly suggests that the Soviet Union is adopting a more forthcoming stance on force reductions.

The ministers agreed that further clarification is needed to establish, if enough ground exists, for negotiations to start. Ministers agreed that their governments would continue to intensify explorations with the nations of Eastern Europe on a bilateral basis. If I may say so, incidentally this is one of the things our Prime Minister was doing when he was in Moscow. They also agreed that deputy foreign ministers or other senior officials should meet in Brussels at an early date to review the results of the exploratory contacts and to consult on the substantive and procedural approaches to mutual balanced force reductions. Canada supported these moves and called for more direct action. In response to a Canadian proposal, ministers expressed their willingness to appoint at the appropriate time a representative or

representatives to conduct further exploratory talks with the Soviet Union and other interested governments. Let us hope that the response from the Soviet Union and its allies will show an intention to negotiate actively and without delay on this issue of vital importance to security and stability in Europe.

I took advantage of my presence at the meeting to have bilateral talks with some of my colleagues from member nations. Of special interest to the House will be the frank and forthright talk I had with Mr. Patricio, Foreign Minister of Portugal. I made clear to him the firm attitude of the Canadian people to Portuguese colonial policy in Africa. I gave him a report of the conversations I had with black African leaders in March. I urged Portugal, as I have done on previous occasions, to move toward self-government for its African territories in its own interest as well as in the interest of humanity as a whole.

OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING

From the NATO meeting in Lisbon I went to the OECD [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development] ministerial meeting in Paris, at which I was accompanied by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The meeting concentrated upon the economic outlook, the establishment of a high-level group on problems of trade liberalization, and development assistance. On the economic outlook the mood was one of restrained optimism. A better rate of increase in gross national product for member nations was foreseen, particularly in North America. I was struck by the extent to which member nations share common preoccupations and problems, unemployment, inflation and threats to the physical environment. These will continue to plague us and the meeting found no easy solutions. Ministers agreed without dissent that full employment cannot be bought at the price of inflation. The need to break the inflation psychology was stressed, and I urged the Organization, as a body above domestic politics, to continue and intensify both its studies of the problem and its efforts to increase public understanding of the insidious dangers of inflation.

There was a full discussion of the Secretary-General's proposals for the creation of a high-level group to assess current problems in international trade, to consider how these problems might be met, and to set out various options for their solution. The Secretary-General's initiative was also aimed at maintaining the high degree of liberalization achieved in international trade and the prevention of backsliding. The initiative received very wide support and ministers agreed to the creation of the group. I made clear our intention to contribute to the work of the group and our expectation that it will pave the way for further progress in multilateral trade without infringing on the responsibilities and prerogatives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This last point was developed by most other speakers and is reflected in the communiqué....