



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Text of Statement by the Secretary of State
for External Affairs, Mr. L. B. Pearson,
concerning the action taken by the French
National Assembly in Paris on the London and
Paris Agreements.

The approval by the French National Assembly of the agreements worked out in a spirit of co-operation and comprehension last autumn at London and Paris is a cause for deep satisfaction.

I realize that there were doubts and hesitations and much soul-searching in Paris before the necessary decisions were taken. The Assembly, however, with what I believe to be a wise and realistic understanding of the situation, have chosen to follow the course which is not only best in the interests of France, but which was also required if the Atlantic coalition, whose strength and unity is essential for peace, was to be maintained.

It would indeed have been a sad day if some other course had been followed, through fear of the consequences of a restoration of German sovereignty, which included the right - and the obligation - of Germany to share in her own defence.

We must now prove that the rearmament of Germany, not unlimited nor uncontrolled, but within the context of NATO and Western European Union, is not only no menace to France, or to any other country, but, on the contrary will help to associate Germany with the free Western world in such a way that peace and security will be strengthened.

Without the close and friendly co-operation and understanding between France and Germany, such a strengthening of peace would be difficult, if not impossible. That is another reason why the decisions taken in Paris will be welcomed by the majority of the Canadian people.

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