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PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A GROUP OF LEADING JOURNALISTS FROM EUROPEAN NATO COUNTRIES WILL ARRIVE IN OTTAWA FROM PARIS VIA RCAF AIRCRAFT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2 TO BEGIN A 20-DAY TOUR OF CANADA. THIS IS THE FOURTH TOUR OF THIS COUNTRY BY JOURNALISTS FROM THE THIRTEEN EUROPEAN NATO COUNTRIES SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND A NUMBER OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS ONE OF A SERIES OF TOURS OF NATO COUNTRIES ARRANGED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION DURING 1957, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO ENABLE JOURNALISTS TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE EACH MEMBER COUNTRY PLAYS IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

AS LAST YEAR'S NATO TOUR OF CANADA WAS CENTERED MAINLY ON WESTERN AND NORTHERN CANADA, THIS YEAR'S IS LARGELY FOCUSED ON EASTERN CANADA. AFTER A PROGRAMME IN OTTAWA, INCLUDING BRIEFINGS BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE NATO PARTY WILL LEAVE OTTAWA ON JUNE 5 TO VISIT ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA AT CHALK RIVER AND ON JUNE 6 TO BEGIN A CIRCULAR TOUR TO TORONTO AND NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO; GIMLI AND CHURCHILL, MANITOBA; SCHEFFERVILLE (KNOB LAKE), QUEBEC CITY AND MONTREAL, QUEBEC; HALIFAX AND THE ANNAPOLIS VALLEY, NOVA SCOTIA; AND ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND. DURING THE TOUR THE JOURNALISTS WILL SEE ESTABLISHMENTS OF CANADA'S THREE ARMED SERVICES AT CHURCHILL, QUEBEC CITY, ST. HUBERT AND HALIFAX. IN ADDITION, AT THE RCAF STATION AT GIMLI, MANITOBA, THEY WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH NATO AIRMEN FROM EUROPE WHO ARE RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS THERE UNDER THE CANADIAN NATO AIRCREW TRAINING PROGRAMME.

THE JOURNALISTS WILL TOUR INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, IRON MINES, POWER DEVELOPMENTS, THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY, AND ALSO VISIT UNIVERSITIES AND THE HOMES OF IMMIGRANTS, FROM THE JOURNALISTS OWN COUNTRIES, IN ORDER TO SEE AT FIRST-HAND MANY ASPECTS OF CANADIAN LIFE.