



## PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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FOR RELEASE IN THE AFTERNOON  
PAPERS OF SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1954.

The Department of External Affairs today announced that a sleeping bag would be presented to Sir Edmund Hillary, New Zealand member of the team that successfully climbed Mount Everest, when he visits Ottawa on Monday, February 8. The sleeping bag, like those used by the expedition, was designed and manufactured in Canada.

The presentation will be made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, at 4.30 p.m. Monday in the Conference Room of the East Block. The New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr. T.C.A. Hislop, C.M.G., will be present. Sir Edmund, who is on a North American speaking tour, is visiting Ottawa to address the Canadian Club.

When the expedition conquered Mount Everest the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, sent congratulatory messages to Sir John Hunt, leader of the expedition, and to Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norkay. In recognition of their feat the Canadian Government also decided to present them with sleeping bags, identical with those used on the expedition. One has been sent to London for presentation to Sir John Hunt by the Canadian High Commissioner, and another has been sent to New Delhi for presentation to Tensing Norkay. The third was retained in Ottawa pending the arrival of Sir Edmund.

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