

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PRESS RELEASE

OTTAWA, January 4, 1954

The following announcement was made today:

The Prime Minister will leave Rockcliffe Airport on February 4, on a visit to several countries which will take him around the world.

Mr. St-Laurent will visit Commonwealth countries in Asia -- India, Pakistan and Ceylon. In Southeast Asia he will visit Indonesia, with which Canada has recently exchanged Ambassadors. En route to the Far East, he will stop overnight in the Philippines. After his stay in Korea, where he will spend some time with Canadian Forces, he will visit Japan.

The Prime Minister's tour will begin in Europe. Following a brief stop in the United Kingdom, he will visit France, Germany and Italy. While in Europe, he will see the Canadian Brigade in Germany and RCAF stations in France and Germany.

The Prime Minister had hoped to visit Australia and New Zealand but, since the time available in the course of a long tour would have been very short and, since his visit to Australia would have taken place at a time when the Queen would still be in that country, it has been arranged that the visits to these countries be postponed.

During his tour, the Prime Minister will repay visits to Canada by the Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan, France and Italy and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. His visit to Japan follows the recent visit to Canada of the Japanese Crown Prince.

The Prime Minister, who will fly in an RCAF C-5 aircraft, will be accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Hugh O'Donnell, his son, Mr. Jean-Paul St-Laurent, Mr. C.S.A. Ritchie of the Department of External Affairs, Mr. Ross Martin of the Privy Council Office and a small group of other officials. The Prime Minister is expected to arrive back in Ottawa on March 17.