

Mr. Pearson Meets Mr. Johnson

The following communiqué was published at the end of the discussions held by President Lyndon B. Johnson and Prime Minister L. B. Pearson in Washington, D.C., on January 21 and 22, 1964:

Useful discussions on many matters have been held during the past two days while Prime Minister Pearson has been visiting Washington, D.C., as the guest of President Johnson. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Mr. Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs. Mr. Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, was with the President.

The President and the Prime Minister had a wide-ranging discussion about the international situation. In their review of world affairs they discussed the NATO alliance and the Atlantic community, the prospects for easing East-West tensions, the importance of practical specific initiatives toward disarmament, and the current problems in Asia, Africa, and the Western Hemisphere. They will continue to co-operate fully in helping the countries of these areas move toward economic development, political stability and peace along their borders.

Defence and Economic Problems

The Prime Minister and the President noted with satisfaction the progress made towards the cessation of nuclear testing. They affirmed their desire to promote additional measures to ease international tensions and to support further advances toward effective disarmament. The steady development of the peace-keeping capacity of the United Nations remains for both a goal essential to the preservation of world peace.

The President and the Prime Minister examined various bilateral defence questions and noted with satisfaction that appropriate agreements have lately been concluded between their two governments. They agreed to plan for a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee on Defence during the first half of this year. They reaffirmed the support of both governments for the developing defence production sharing programme, which is of mutual benefit.

The Prime Minister and the President referred to the balance-of-payments problems of their respective countries. They reviewed outstanding economic problems between the two countries, including certain trade and tax measures. They agreed on the urgency of successful GATT negotiations to achieve a substantial reduction of trade barriers in order to meet the goal of expanded world trade.

The President and the Prime Minister reviewed the work of the Joint Cabinet Level Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs at its meeting last September and agreed that it should meet again around the end of April.

The Prime Minister and the President discussed at some length the practicality and desirability of working out acceptable principles which would make it easier